



"Serving With..." Study Guide
Matthew 4:1 2-23, 9:9-13

- 1. Read the first text (4:1 2-23), and explain that this is the very beginning of Jesus' ministry. Prior to this point Jesus' ministry was initiated with his baptism and temptation in the wilderness. He comes into Galilee to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy about the Messiah, and immediately calls the first disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.**
 - 1. What do you think it meant for Jesus' ministry to have disciples working with him who were from that region?**
 - 2. How might his ministry have been different if the disciples had come with him from Judea after his baptism (keep in mind that Galilee was on the margins of Jewish religious life with Jerusalem in Judea being the center).**
 - 3. In the following chapters Jesus teaches and heals in the region of Galilee. How would you feel if a group of outsiders came into your town and started telling you how you should live? Would you feel differently if they were from your community?**
- 2. Read the second text (9:9-13). In this text, Jesus invites a tax collector into ministry with him. In these days tax collectors were considered sinners because they were often corrupt, cheating people out of money. Matthew (called Levi in Mark and Luke) follows Jesus, and then Jesus goes to Matthew's house for dinner. There Jesus shares a meal with other "tax collectors and sinners," offering opportunity to engage in conversation and relationship with those on the margins of society.**
 - 1. In this story, how did Jesus' relationship with one person on the margins offer an opportunity for relationships with others on the margins?**
 - 2. Do you think the other "tax collectors and sinners" at Matthew's house would have trusted Jesus if he had not built a relationship with Matthew first?**
 - 3. Jesus called people from the margins to be disciples. How would his ministry have looked differently if he hadn't included them?**