



GAME ON

Game Changer

#npgameon

Week 4

4 of 4

June 25, 2017

Bottom Line: The wrong approach kills the message even if the message is right.

Icebreaker: What person (living or deceased) would you most like to meet, and what would you want to talk about? (Can't be Jesus ☺).

Key Verse: *"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."* Mark 2:17 NLT

Jesus was walking alongside the lakeshore, teaching the diverse crowds one day. He saw Levi, a Gentile tax collector, sitting at his tax booth, collecting taxes. Jesus saw him, saw all the God-given potential in him, and called out to him, "Follow me, and be my disciple!" Levi immediately got up and followed because he understood Jesus' invitation. Even though he wasn't a Jew, and had not ever been part of that life, he knew *this* was an invitation he wanted to accept.

Soon he issued an invitation of his own. He invited Jesus to a party with his own friends at his house. Jesus came! The whole house was filled with despised tax collectors and a crowd of other "sinners" and undesirables. As they were eating, laughing, and discussing together, religious people saw the wonderful connections they were making and were shocked. They huffed to each other, "Why is this rabbi eating with such scum?" Eating symbolized sharing life intimately, and they didn't get it.

Jesus knew what they were saying, and didn't ignore it. He made His priority clear: *"Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."* Jesus ate with "scum" because he didn't see people that way. Nor was he concerned about others' opinions. He lived his life as an open invitation to people who didn't get "religion" to actually come as they are, and experience God as HE is. That's how WE made it in. Jesus and those who truly followed Him gave up their our prejudices, preferences, and traditions to make access to a relationship with God understandable and attractive, within their reach.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What point of the message spoke to you most powerfully?

"... the people who were the furthest away from God did not feel judged by Jesus." How does that challenge you?

"Christians are currently defined by what we are against rather than what we are for." Agree or disagree? Why?

"The church has gotten between Jesus and the culture." How do you see this to be true?

"Jesus' goal wasn't to be right, it was to connect with people and bring them an abundant life." What does that mean for us?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

"We have to be more in love with WHY we do church than HOW we do church." If we're honest, this is a problem at some time for all of us. How would you advise a person who is struggling here?

How does behavior change when you assume there are guests in the room?

When you ask the question, "Is there anything keeping me from inviting an unchurched friend?", does anything specific come to mind? Whom should you tell? What might be done?

How do you feel about knowing that an outsider's preferences are more important than yours?

Why do you suppose we are more concerned, typically, about whom we are keeping than whom we are reaching? How can the example of Jesus help us?

NEXT STEPS

This week consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) Whom will you invite to church next weekend? Share with the group.
- 2) Pray for those who are currently planning the services and preparing what is to be taught in classes and groups this week.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: The wrong approach kills the message even if the message is right.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: John 3:17

Day 2: 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

Day 3: John 10:10

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 9:19-21

Day 5: John 13:4-5

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)