

Follow
Part 2 – “An Open Invitation”
September 15 & 18, 2022

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth.

Matthew 9:9

"Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

Matthew 9:10

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.

Matthew 9:11-12

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Matthew 9:13

But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

- Jesus [accepts](#) people whom others call unacceptable.

Colossians 2:13-14

When you were dead in your sins... He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

- The invitation to follow Jesus isn't based on what we have done, but on what [Jesus](#) has done.

Group Questions

1. Welcome to a new Groups season! Tell us about why you decided to make Hope your church.
2. In this series, we've covered some reasons why people cross their arms to belief in God. Have any resonated with you? Which ones have you noticed? Are there other objections you bump into?
3. Telling people about Jesus can make many Christians feel nervous. How is it helpful to remember that people embrace faith – not when they get their questions answered – but when Jesus becomes personal? Does it inform how you approach conversations about faith?
4. Review the story of the calling of Matthew. What do you imagine the primary emotions were of the following characters:
 - The disciples

- The crowds
- The Pharisees
- Jesus
- Matthew
- Which character do you most identify with?

5. In your experience, do people in our community think of church as being a helpful resource for them when they're feeling guilty? What can you do to help with that?

6. What does it say about Jesus that he's the one who initiates the invitation to sinners to follow him? What does that mean to you?