



## Study guide - 14th Sept

Week 1 - Sarah Harris

We will work through the book of Mark during the autumn term and we would encourage everyone to read it at home at a pace that suits them. For this first session it would be helpful to read chapters 1 and 2.

**Icebreaker:** Sarah shared about being the only girl at cricket training. Share a situation where you have felt the outsider or where someone unexpected has turned up.

Read **Mark 2 v13-17** together.

1. Levi was a rejected outsider but Jesus didn't hesitate to call him, showing himself to be more unconventional than people had realised. How do you feel about the image of Jesus as being so radical?
2. What do you think the significance is of Jesus calling Levi whilst he was literally in the place of his betrayal (the toll booth)? What could this mean for how Jesus wants to meet us, or how we approach reaching out to others?

3. *"One group is about keeping boundaries to bring the Kingdom. And the other, Jesus is about stepping over boundaries to include people in the Kingdom of Heaven."*

We thought about the idea that we might see ourselves as an observer rather than identify with either of the characters in this story. Take some time to consider both of the roles - what aspects can you identify with? Which parts are less comfortable?

4. *"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."*

We considered that it takes courage to admit that we're sick - both in terms of our human lives and our spiritual lives. How can we create spaces where it feels ok for people to share their struggles openly? Is there anything you could do differently in your house group or your social circles to help?

5. This passage requires us to stop judging both ourselves and others by the world's standards, and instead see that God is comfortable in the messy reality of people's lives. How could you do that personally? How could we do this as a wider church?