#### **SO WHAT**

- Do you think Matthew was still able to be a tax collector after he answered Jesus' call? Do you think he could still hang out with all his old friends and do the same things with them like he did before?
- Why do we need to connect with lost people in the world and share the message of salvation to them?
- In your opinion, are you able and willing to show this kind of compassionate love to lost people in the world?

#### **NOW WHAT**

- As we study how Jesus related and reached out to lost people in the world, what are some specific ways we can engage lost people and bring them to a relationship with God?
- What are some common reasons and excuses that lost people say prevent them from committing their lives to God? How can we answer their questions and lead them to decide to follow Christ?
- Is there a spiritual truth in this passage that is especially significant for you? Write it down why it is important.

## **PRAYER**

- Pray and ask God to give you compassion towards the lost who need to hear the gospel.
- Write the names of several people whom you plan to share the Good News with soon and pray for their hearts to be opened to respond to the gospel (Acts 16:14).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to open up opportunities for you to share the Word of God to people He is leading you to minister.



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### WEEK 3

# Share



NOTES			

## CONNECT

- What is your one prized possession that was given as a gift to you?
- What is one thing you have given or shared lately to a needy person?
- Name one compassionate and kind person you know whom you want to imitate. Why do you look up to him/her?



<sup>9</sup>As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and `sinners'?" <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: `I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." MATTHEW 9:9-13

### WHAT

Jesus' display of compassion, grace, and love to those who need Him defied the customs in society. This, in turn, has inspired Matthew to reach out to his fellow tax collectors and friends who were called 'sinners' by the teachers of the law. These three points tell us how we are to share and reach out just as Christ did.

# 1 See people with eyes of compassion.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. MATTHEW 9:36

Matthew, being a tax collector, was looked down upon by society as an outcast. Yet Jesus saw him as a man in need of God's saving grace and compassion so He reached out to him, even dined with his friends who are also labeled by people as sinners. Why did Jesus have such a compassion for these so-called "outcasts" of society (Matthew 9:12,13)? How should this affect the way we look at people and reach out to them?

2	Spend time in befriending them.  8"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you." LUKE 10:8,9
	Jesus made a strong statement of friendship, grace, and forgiveness when He ate with the tax collectors and 'sinners.' To eat with sinners meant accepting them as they were. From the perspective of the Pharisees, this meant becoming a sinner yourself by not denouncing the sinners and their sins. Notice how Jesus reached out to the tax collectors and 'sinners' (Matthew 9:10,11; 11:19). How does this change the way you win friends?
3	Share the gospel and challenge them to follow Christ. "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." LUKE 5:32