**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Dinner with Villains**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 9:9–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt9.9-13).

**Consider**

The Pharisees who showed up had an intense reaction to Jesus sharing a meal with sinners. According to the Pharisees’ customs and traditions, this was not the type of behavior someone who loved and honored God would be involved in. They may have hated it, but this moment reveals a lot about Jesus and how He cares for people. Jesus wants us to love sinners and share His good news with them.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think it was important that Jesus shared a meal with Matthew and his guests? |

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| **QUESTION**What have you learned about Jesus because of this meal? |

**Reflect**

If you’re a Christian, then you likely understand there are certain behaviors, actions, and decisions that you shouldn’t do. You’re also likely surrounded by people every day who act like no Christian ever should. Think about some of the people you know who might fit in the category of sinners. How we relate to those people matters a lot to Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think Jesus wants you to interact with people who have a bad reputation? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think would be some important guidelines for a Christian interacting with those who aren’t Christians? |

**Activate**

Take some time to pray for friends who don’t know Jesus. Over the next couple of days, try to spend some time with them. Do your best to introduce them to Jesus. Also, consider inviting them to your church or youth group next week.

**Pray**

Lord, I want to walk in Your ways, and I want to interact with people the way You would. Please help me to influence others’ lives more than be influenced by them. Help me be a friend of sinners just as You were. Amen.

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**Day 2: You Can’t Do That!**

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 12:9–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt12.9-14).

**Consider**

In this story, Jesus encountered a man in need. However, there was a problem. It was the Sabbath, which meant that no one was allowed to do work on that day according to Old Testament rules. Some thought this even included healing a person. It’s an interesting moment in Jesus’ ministry that challenged people’s ideas about God.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the Pharisees wanted to bring charges against Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**What was Jesus trying to teach the people about God’s heart for people and their pain? |

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| **QUESTION**What was the religious leaders’ reaction to Jesus healing the man? |

**Reflect**

It’s very easy to become so busy keeping Christian rules that we forget to be like Christ. In another passage ([Mark 12:30–31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk12.30-31)), Jesus explained that really all of God’s laws are connected to simply loving God and loving people. Jesus wanted it to be understood that there are no laws in His kingdom that should prevent someone from doing good. Any that seem that way are probably just misunderstood. You may not have rules that prevent you from helping others, but you may make excuses about why you can’t help others.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever made an excuse for why you couldn’t or wouldn’t help someone? Why? |

**Activate**

Acts of kindness toward others never go unnoticed by God. Decide right now to do a good deed for someone. Choose a person who needs to experience some kindness. Choose someone outside of your friend group and show them kindness. Remember, even small acts of kindness make a big difference.

**Pray**

Lord, I want my heart to be like Your heart. I want to always be mindful of doing good. Help me to represent You well by not only announcing I am a Christian, but by demonstrating Your care for others. Amen.

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**Day 3: Everyone Needs Friends Like These**

**Engage**

Read [Luke 5:17–26](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk5.17-26).

**Consider**

In this story, a group of men helped a man who was paralyzed have an encounter with Jesus. The men went to great lengths to make sure their friend met Jesus. We can learn a lot from them about kindness. There are times when our friends need our help. Perhaps our friends don’t need help like in the story you read, but they may need us in other ways.

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| **QUESTION**When the man was lowered in front of Jesus, whose faith did Jesus see? Why do you think this is important? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus forgave the man’s sins before healing his body? |

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| **QUESTION**How do you think the friends felt at the end of this story? |

**Reflect**

The men who helped their friend are key in the sick man’s healing. The man couldn’t get himself to Jesus. He needed the help of others. His experience with Jesus was dependent on those men. For many people around us, the only way they can get to hear about Jesus is with the help of someone else.

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| **QUESTION**How does this story show our role in helping people encounter Jesus? |

**Activate**

We don’t have the power in ourself to spiritually save or physically heal people. But we can help them get to the One who can—Jesus. Today, send a couple of texts to friends who are far from God. Pray for them and share what’s on your heart. Tell them something that will help them get to Jesus.

**Pray**

Jesus, I know You do miracles, and You change lives. I accept my responsibility in helping others get to You. I am committed to doing whatever it takes to help bring people into Your presence so they can have an opportunity to experience a relationship with You the way I have. Amen.

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**Day 4: No Hopeless Cases**

**Engage**

Read [Mark 5:1–20](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.1-20).

**Consider**

In this story, Jesus had an encounter with a demon-possessed man. Reading these verses, it becomes clear that it was no ordinary set of circumstances. This man was in a very dark place, and his experience with demons was treacherous. He had no control in his life, and it seems no one else could control him either. He was left to hang out in a graveyard and be a mad man cut off from society.

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| **QUESTION**How do you think people viewed this man and his condition? |

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| **QUESTION**What do we learn about Jesus’ power over evil in this story? |

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| **QUESTION**What was the man’s response after being set free? |

**Reflect**

This man seemed like a hopeless case. He seemed like someone unreachable. Most had completely given up on him as a lost cause. Yet, Jesus saw him differently. Jesus set him free. It’s important to understand that there is no such thing as a hopeless case or a lost cause when Jesus is in the picture. He can conquer all evil, no matter how bad.

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| **QUESTION**Knowing Jesus can save absolutely anyone, how should that impact the way you interact with others? |

**Activate**

It’s time to pray with faith. Think about the people you know who seem to be the farthest from God. Write their names on a notecard and post it as a reminder to pray for them. Begin praying for them to experience the light of Jesus. If He can do it for a demon-possessed man in a graveyard, He can do it for anyone. Make sure you make a note beside their name if they surrender to Jesus.

**Pray**

Lord, I know You can reach anyone. There is no darkness You cannot conquer. Give me the faith to see the world with full belief that anyone who calls on You can be saved. Allow me the joy of partnering with You in setting people free from evil. Amen.

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**Day 5: Here, There, Everywhere**

**Engage**

Read [Acts 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac1.8).

**Consider**

In this verse, Jesus instructed His disciples about their assignment. He sent them out on His mission and gave them an idea of the geography they should focus on. Each place He referenced has meaning. Specifically, they were in Jerusalem, so Jesus was instructing them to reach the city they were in. Judea was the larger region Jerusalem was in. Samaria was a neighboring region that required moving even further away from where they were. And the end of the earth emphasized that He wanted them to share the good news everywhere.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to receive the power of the Holy Spirit first? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think Jesus meant by the word witnesses? |

**Reflect**

Jesus is sending us out to share His good news with those who need to hear. This verse can apply to the school you attend and the town you live in. It also can imply that we have a responsibility to participate in His mission around the world. We can accomplish this through praying, going on missions trips, and giving generously.

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| **QUESTION**On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest, how would you rate your engagement with sharing Jesus’ good news? Why? |

**Activate**

If you’re baptized in the Holy Spirit, pray in your prayer language. If not, ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. (If you don’t know what that means, ask a pastor or church leader to explain it to you.) Ask God for the power to live as a witness of Him to people around you.

**Pray**

Jesus, I know You have brought us good news. I have experienced Your good news personally, and I am grateful. Both locally and around the world, help me to effectively communicate Your heart. Help me to be Your witness at home, school, work, and around the world. Amen.