



Small Group Notes
#3 "Jesus, The Life of the Party"
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
April 30, 2017

Overview: While Jesus spent time in the synagogue he also spent time with people who would never be caught dead there. Where did Jesus spend his "Friday" nights? Well he seemed to go to quite a few parties, which also seemed to get him in trouble with the religious leaders of his day. In this study we will check out a few of the parties Jesus went to and ask some questions about Jesus' style of influencing others for God's kingdom. The idea is to get a perspective on Jesus and how he invested his life in others and how we could learn to do the same.

1. **Please read:** John 2:1-11 (the wedding party, turning water into wine)
Luke 19:1-10 (the party at Zacchaeus house) and
Matthew 9:9-13 (the party at Matthews)

Have people read the stories in various translations including the New Living Translation.

2. **Discuss** the biblical stories using the following questions as a guide:
 - a. Who came to these events? What part of society were they from?
 - b. Who invited them? How did they get there? Who influenced them to attend?
 - c. Who or how was Jesus invited to these events?
 - d. What did other people think about Jesus doing this? (The Pharisees had some strong opinions on this.)
 - e. Why do you think Jesus hung out with those he did?
 - f. What application is there for today?
 - g. Are all our friends believers? If so why and how did that happen?
 - h. Why do you think some believers don't spend quality time with unbelievers?
 - i. What would a contemporary version of a "Jesus" party look like?

SMALL GROUP CHALLENGE:

- I am issuing a challenge to every small group to host a gathering of your choice (BBQ, Lunch, coffee and cake, hike, a campfire, arts event, or whatever else you think of etc.)
- As a group *prayerfully* choose one or more people who are not yet believers to invite to this social event. You may want to decide as a group who that person or persons would be. You only need one or two people (but you can invite more if you like)
- Your purpose is simply to expose that person to your group and some of your friends who are believers in Jesus Christ. You do not need to "preach" or attempt to "witness" to your guest(s) just have some fun, fellowship and food! You can be yourselves...let Jesus do the influencing!
- Please complete the challenge by June 26, 2017

NEXT STEPS: For the organized person(s) in your group

- What type of event will we do? _____
 - What date will this event take place? _____
 - Whom are we prayerfully considering to invite?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Who will do the inviting? _____
 - Who is organizing the event? _____
 - Other items _____
-

PLEASE SEND ME AN E MAIL WITH YOUR EVENT AND ITS DATE AS AOON AS YOU KNOW THESE DETAILS AND preferably BEFORE June 1st, 2017:
jmahood@allnationschurch.ca

We will have a team of people praying for you as you lead up to the event and on the night of the event, and any other information you think is important for our prayer team to know.

We also want to share how each group has creatively taken up this challenge.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW YOUR EVENT WENT!

FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

I believe with all my heart that people are looking for Jesus, sometimes they just don't know who or what they are looking for. All we have to do is do what Jesus' friends did and invite people to hang around with people who know Jesus. *The rest is up to Jesus.*

Just imagine what could happen if each of our small groups invited one or two people to a gathering. And just think what would happen if even half of them decided to take a next step towards faith; perhaps by coming to church, or perhaps by choosing to read the bible, or perhaps giving their life to Christ. Imagine how you or your group will feel knowing that simply by inviting some friends to a 'party' their lives were changed forever. I trust you will take up this challenge starting right now, and let's build the kingdom of God together...and have some fun while we are at it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Paul Young (writer of "The Shack") here at ANC Wed. May 3rd 7 p.m. \$10.
2. Imago Communication Workshop May 1,8,15 in the Great Room. Come as "twosomes" to learn and interact. Sign up at the Welcome Centre.
3. Girlfriends Breakfast Club Sat. May 13th 9:15-11 a.m. Great Room. Tickets \$5
4. Mother's Day "YOUTHBUCKS" Fundraiser for Overflow Youth Conference.