

CUSTOM CREATIONS

Elementary
Week 2

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL: Identity

Read: Matthew 9:9-13

“The church is not a museum for pristine saints, but a hospital ward for broken sinners.”
Timothy Keller

When Matthew decided to follow Jesus he may or may not have been completely aware of his brokenness but in Jesus’s light became more and more aware. And just like the pharisees ask Jesus in this passage Matthew may have questioned it himself. Why did Jesus not only choose sinners and tax collectors as disciples, but also choose to hang out with them?

I believe there are a lot of answers found in Jesus’s simple reply, “Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners.”

There is so much conviction in this statement, because first I think I should follow God’s example and hang out with the proverbial tax collectors and sinners in my world. Which is true, but then when I really think about it I am reminded that I am exactly that. All of us are, but sometimes our mind switches to feeling like we are better than that or have it figured all out. The reality is God is going to be at work in each of our brokenness until we reach him in heaven, no matter how many years we have or haven’t followed him we are just as broken as the person still trying to find him, but at least we are no longer lost, and hopefully we are finding growth.

Who do you surround yourself with? Why? Can you be a light somewhere else?

Have you lost touch of your brokenness and how much you need God? How?

Why do you need God? What attributes of his do you find you constantly need more of in your life?