

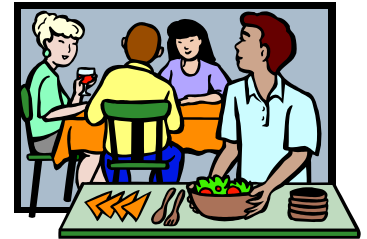
*Questions for Reflection and Discussion*  
**Matthew 9:1-13**

***Getting Started***

Have you ever had the experience of others holding you up with their faith when yours was weak? Explain.

***Digging In***

1. **Read Matthew 9:1-8.** Describe the setting?
2. Whose faith does Jesus commend in v. 2?
3. What did Jesus say to the paralytic? How do you think the paralytic responded?
4. What were the teachers of the law thinking? Why?
5. How would you answer Jesus' question in v. 5?
6. How did Jesus show that he had the authority to forgive sins?
7. **Read Matthew 9:9-13.** How does this scene open?
8. In what sense was Matthew an unlikely disciple?
9. What did Jesus do that drew criticism from the Pharisees?
10. What does Jesus mean in v. 12?
11. In his answer, Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6 (in Matt 9:13). What was Jesus trying to get the Pharisees to understand in saying that God desires mercy, not sacrifice?
12. What is the application of verse 13 for us today?
13. What does it mean that Jesus came not to call the righteous to be his disciples, but sinners?



***Getting Personal***

- What are some ways today that we sometimes focus on religiosity rather than on what God truly desires?
- What would it look like for us to follow Jesus' example of having dinner with Matthew and his friends?
- How is God calling you to open your life to those outside the church?