

## Weekly Study

### Now We're Talking | Ethan Matott | June 19, 2022

*\*A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the "grow" and "move" portions of the Weekly entitled 'Dive Deeper'. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

#### START

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- If you could travel anywhere right now, where would you go and why?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday's sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God?

#### SHARE

This weekend Ethan continued our Grit series with a message about relational grit. God has enabled us to engage in relationship and endure with people who are different than us, and no one did this better than Jesus. He contrasted our culture, which is generally lacking in grace and ability to sit gracefully in the tension of being in relationship with people who are different than us, with the way of Jesus, who went out of his way to be in proximity with such people.

#### GROW

##### **Read Matthew 9:9-13.**

From the beginning of his ministry, we find that Jesus spent time with everyone — especially those who were not socially considered to be worthy of his attention and affection. The first-century world was obsessed with who was clean and unclean... in and out... right and wrong. He intentionally put himself in relationship with those who were considered to be the most difficult to get along with, including prostitutes, tax collectors and other notable sinners.

In this passage, we find Jesus making his way to have dinner with Matthew. In this day, one would typically think that everyone could unite around a strong dislike of a tax collector. Instead, we see Jesus moving in the opposite spirit and showing us that it's people like Matthew who are in a position to receive Him easily and what we think we know about who is worthy of being in proximity to Jesus can quickly be turned on its head.

- Who do you know who displays the most relational grit? Share a little bit about that person.
- Who is the person in your life who you know you need to either a) step out and engage with or b) endure in your relationship with?
- *Dive Deeper*: if you identify similarities between you and someone else in your group, make a commitment to get together this week for coffee or a meal and dig into what God could be showing you about how to move forward in obedience. Changing thoughts and behaviors are always easier when done with someone else!

## M O V E

### **Read Romans 14:1-13a.**

In this passage Paul is exhorting the church to stay focused on what matters most. The ‘weak’ were considered at this time to be those who believed their holiness was contingent upon their behavior, and the ‘strong’ were those who operated with a spirit that said “I’m free, so you can’t tell me what to do”. Ethan reminded us that we are too good at majoring on minor things and living our lives with a sense of certainty that Jesus never asked us to possess. This passage convicts us by reminding us to keep our hearts set on what matters most.

It is possible for you to be right and for your neighbor to be right — and both be honoring to God. Not every conviction you have will be the same as the person next to you, which is why it is important to remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be quick to learn peoples’ stories. Remember the words found in 1 Corinthians 13: “if I speak in the tongues of men and of angels yet do not love, I am nothing but a clanging gong or noisy cymbal.” In today’s world that is full of too much noise, it can be difficult to discern who is sharing their thoughts and opinions in love... and who is just speaking. It is experiencing God’s love for us that fuels our love for people, and before we can speak words into others’ lives that hold deep significance, we need to be known as people who love well. If we can get that right within the Church, then we will do a much better job of getting it right in all the other places we find ourselves throughout the week.

- The gospel is often more less complicated than we realize. Pair up with one person in your group and confess: what is the ‘minor’ thing that you are tempted to turn into a ‘major’?
- How can you use more of your energy this week to get along with the people in your life?
- *Dive Deeper*: Is there a strong conviction that you hold that others may not hold? In what way does the Holy Spirit need to open your mind and heart to hold space for the genuine convictions of other people?

## P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the strength to surrender that theological 'minor' to Him that you're tempted to stay fixated on and that He would give you His perspective on what is most important to Him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the name of one person this week that He wants you to step out and engage with, and the courage to be obedient to whatever He brings to your mind.