

VOICES

LEARNING FROM OTHERS



VOICES IV DISCUSSION GUIDE

Every summer Doxa welcomes preachers from other places to come challenge and encourage our church. This year will be our fourth time hosting a Voices series and we are expectant that this year's line up will be refreshing for our church!

VOICES: WEEK ONE - **Evangelism for All**

Text: Matthew 9:9-13

Matthew, a social outcast, tells the story of how Jesus came to save those who are sick. Jesus is reclining at the table, surrounded by tax collectors, prostitutes, and social outcasts when subtly challenged by the religious leaders on this seeming contradiction. Jesus, the great physician, had come to reach the sick and call them back to Him. "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" - Jesus reminds us it is who we are, not what we do that He desires. No amount of good works and self-righteousness will get us closer to God, but through a humble posture of the heart and a genuine relationship He draws us nearer. Only through a relationship with Him and empowered by the Holy Spirit will we be able to reach the sick in our community.

Read: Matthew 9:9-13

1. Jesus was often seen associating with prostitutes, tax collectors, and the social outcasts of His day. What does this tell us about the God we serve?
2. Jesus refers to himself as a physician coming to reach those who are sick. In what areas of your life have you experienced God's grace and mercy?
3. Jesus makes it clear that He doesn't come to call the righteous, but sinners. How has God revealed your brokenness so that you may lean more fully into Him?
4. Jesus reminds the religious leaders of his time about an old message in Hosea - "I desire mercy, not sacrifice". What does this mean and how can we live in accordance with this truth?
5. In what ways has God prepared our church to reach the outcasts of our day?
6. Jesus lead His disciples into situations that often felt counterintuitive or uncomfortable to reach the lost and social outcasts. How are you listening to the Spirit's guidance? How might God be calling our community to step into uncomfortable situations?