

**Someone You've Got to Meet**  
Luke 5:27-32

**INTENTION**

*Group members will get a firm grasp on what Jesus stated as his singular purpose for coming to this earth: "To seek and to save those that are lost." They will take stock of their own lives as followers of Jesus and examine how they are lining their lives up with Jesus' purpose.*

**INTRODUCTION**

*This section allows group members to experience a game where some people are in the know and others have to learn what that means and to join their team.*

1. Tell the group you are going to play a game called The Green Glass Door Club. (Let them know that if someone already knows the membership requirements, they should play but don't give it away to others. The rules are as follows:
  - a. There is something called the green glass door, and only certain objects (and possibly actions) are allowed inside of it.
  - b. Give them a few examples like these: I can have a hammer but no nails; I can have a spoon but no fork; I can have books but no words; I can have trees but no leaves; (The secret rule is that only words with a consecutive double letter are allowed.)
  - c. Now allow group members to try to come up with their sentences stating something that will be allowed in and something that won't be allowed in.
  - d. Respond to each statement with "yes" or "no."
  - e. If someone seems to have figured out the secret, have them try several times. If you are sure they have it say: Welcome, you are now an official member of the Green Glass Door club.
  - f. Continue playing the game for a limited period of time (or until those that haven't figured the club rules out start to get frustrated), welcoming new members as people get it.
2. Conclude the game by revealing the secret to club membership and welcoming everyone into membership.

**INTERACTION**

*This section encourages group members to honestly assess the way our body of believers relates to people who may be far from God.*

1. Say: Sometimes, to non-churched people the church and its members can seem like a mysterious club.
2. Ask:
  - a. In what ways do you think the way we as a group (or church) may respond similarly toward visitor/ new people to the way the people "in the club" acted when playing Green Glass Door acted toward people not yet in the club?
  - b. In what ways do you think we act differently than the way the people "in the club" acted?
3. Say: This week's lesson challenges us to take a fresh look at the way we see and respond to people who are far from God.

## INVESTIGATION

*In this section group members will seek to discover what Jesus believed his number one purpose for being on this earth was.*

1. Hand out a 3x 5 card to each group member and ask them to write two things on the card:
  - a. In one sentence write what Jesus would say his purpose was for being on this earth?
  - b. In one sentence write what you believe your number one purpose for being on this earth is.
2. Read: Allow five volunteers to each look up and read one passage each. The passages are: Luke 5:32, 19:10, John 3:17, I Corinthians 9:22-23 and II Peter 3:9
3. Now ask:
  - a. Precisely what did Jesus say his purpose for being in this earth?
  - b. How focused do you believe Peter and Paul were on that purpose? Why?

## INTERPRETATION

*In this section group members study and explain what Jesus thought about insiders and outsiders as it relates to the Kingdom of God.*

1. Have a volunteer to read Luke 4:31-44.
2. Ask another group member to re-tell the story from memory.
3. Ask:
  - a. Who would the Pharisees see as those having the inside track to God in this story? Who were the outsiders? Why?
  - b. Who did Jesus see as the insiders and the outsiders? Why?
4. What implications might Jesus idea about insiders and outsiders have for us?
5. Do you believe that those who are gifted should be the ones who should do the lion's share of reaching out to outsiders? Explain.
6. Who are the outsiders?

## IMPLEMENTATION

*This section encourages group members to turn the way they think about people upside down.*

1. Do you think Jesus felt most of his purpose for being on this earth should take place as part of the official church activity? Why?
2. Especially if you have grown up in, or have been deeply involved in the life of a church for years, what challenges might you face if you decide to connect more intentionally with people who are far from God?
3. Pray:
  - a. Begin a prayer time by leading in prayer for those we brush shoulders with each day that need Jesus.
  - b. Now pause and ask group members to continue praying simply saying the first names of various people they know that come to mind
  - c. Close by allowing group members to pray for each other as we seek to team with Jesus in accomplishing his number one purpose for coming to earth.