

Notices (if you need more info email churchoffice@readingfamilychurch.org.uk):

- **First Wednesday Prayer – 2nd September 2015-** Come join us at one of our prayer meetings; 6-7am, 12.30 - 1.30pm, 8 -9.30pm. we will be praying for our town and nations.
- **Leadership Summit – 19th September 2015-** Our summit will focus on "STRENGTHENING OUR PROPHETIC FOUNDATIONS" . Open to all it will be a day of encouragement and training. Andy Robinson and a team from Kings Church, Horsham will be joining us, serving us with both teaching and practical workshops. Come along and expect God to grow your prophetic gift. Cost is £10. Please book at www.rfcleadershipsommit15.eventbrite.co.uk

Life Group Notes
Sunday 23rd August 2015

Title: The Doctor's in the House

Passage: Luke 5:27-32

On Sunday we looked at the fact that we need the doctor throughout our lives, not just when we become Christians.

We saw Jesus continue his recruitment drive by coming to a tax collector and saying "follow me" to him. This Levi becomes the disciple that we know as Matthew. As a tax collector he would have been despised by most in his culture: A Jew working for the Romans and making a very good living off of defrauding his own people. Socially he would have had no standing. On paper you would have said that Jesus shouldn't have involved him. However, in the calling of Levi, we see Jesus, the Great Physician, at work!

So he offers Levi a new opportunity. What will Levi do? Well he would do what we did when we saw the face of Jesus full of grace and mercy and love looking toward us. He left everything behind and followed him. Throughout our Christian lives we will be called to leave things behind and we need to be those who do that knowing the one we are following and thinking the best of the change. As a result of his change, Levi invites his friends to come and meet Jesus and has him as the guest of honour. Into a den of tax collectors and sinners, Jesus goes and they have a relaxed enjoyable time. Jesus was at the centre of things as they reclined at the table. We need to be more like Levi – Jesus was there because Levi had invited him to come to be with other people who needed the doctor. Where do we find ourselves? As followers of Jesus, wherever we go the doctor is with us because the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, dwells within us. When we choose to have coffee with the one that isn't liked at work, when we have a dinner party and invite people who are not Christians to it, we are being like Levi, and they meet Jesus through us.

The religious guys didn't like what Jesus was doing. They gate crash the dinner party and ask the disciples what they are doing. They are living by the law and they think the law is what saves them. If they can do the right thing and say the right thing then they will be right with God. Let's not be like that. When we find ourselves judging and making condemnatory comments and steering clear of certain groups like the LGBT community, the Muslim community, paedophiles, illegal immigrants, let's ask ourselves "where would the great physician, where would the doctor have been?"

You see Jesus' response to the Pharisees is telling. He basically says if you don't think you need me then fine, I'll spend time with those who do need me: the ones who know that they aren't righteous because you have helped them see that. You keep going as you are, no problem, but I'll spend time with the sinners, the sick.

**Suggested Group time on next page*

Suggested group time:

- 1) As you read the passage together what stands out to you as a group?
- 2) Do you find yourself more like Levi or the Pharisees?
- 3) In your Christian life, what are the things that you have left behind? How did you find that?
- 4) Why do you think it becomes so easy to become like a Pharisee?
- 5) Of all your friends, who do you think Jesus may have gone to dinner with? What will you do with that revelation!
- 6) Pray for each other off the back of this that we will be those who follow Jesus wherever he may take us, even if we start spending time with those who the church may have traditionally seen as outcast. Pray that we will be those who display the joy and acceptance of Jesus. Pray we would be those who don't condone an activity but don't condemn the person.