

Centered Set Church

05 Panel

INTRODUCTION

Has the Church hurt you? What can we do better to address these issues?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you or someone you know been hurt by the lines drawn by the Church? Share your story.
2. In the panel, Lori paraphrased a story from Luke 5:27-35. Take a few minutes to read this passage and summarize it in your own words.
3. In Luke 5:27-35, the Temple model people questioned Jesus' disciples whether they were fasting and praying like John the Baptist's disciples (which, in its context, seemed to be asked while they were partying!). Place yourself as the following characters and share what is going through your mind: 1) Tax Collectors, 2) The Pharisees, and 3) Jesus' Disciple.
4. What do you think churches in America can do to become a more welcoming place? What do you think our church can do?

MOVING FORWARD

If the Church is an extension of Jesus, then we should be identified by Christ's characteristics. He welcomed everyone and reserved his harshest words for those who made it difficult for outsiders to come in.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:30-31