

**The Calling of Matthew.**  
Discussion Notes on Matthew 9:9-12  
For Home Groups week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

**Welcome**

*Q1: Apart from God who or what evokes the most passion in your life?*

**Word - Please read Matthew 9:9-12**

*Q2: What do you imagine Matthew had to leave in order to respond to Jesus' call?*

*Q3: Look at the different circumstances and ways that the people in Matthew 8 & 9 encountered Jesus and heard his call?*

*How did you hear his call – and what made you respond?*

Look for similarities and differences in each other's experiences.

*Q4: Is it possible to be a 'casual Christian' to treat our faith casually?*

*Q5: Look at Matthew 8 & 9 and point out where Jesus shows that he is in charge.*

As we follow Jesus every situation we find ourselves in is a "call to follow". The key question is 'who is in charge of your life'.

*What real life situations do you find yourself in when this question "who is in charge" becomes particularly challenging to obey?*

*Q6: How does a realisation that Jesus actually IS in charge help us to put him in charge of those things that we find it difficult to trust him with?*

*Q7: Read Matthew 8v18-22 and Luke 14:25-33. What do you think Jesus meant about the cost of being a disciple?*

The way we know we are following is that we are constantly being confronted with radical nature of discipleship.

As Matthew sets off after Jesus,  
as God and he walk shoulder to shoulder down the beach,  
as it dawns on him that 'this Jesus' is the one who put the stars in place  
He knew his life would never be ordinary every again.

*Q8: In what ways is the Christian's life extra-ordinary?*

*In what ways are the ambitions of Southover Church extra-ordinary?*

*Q9: In what ways does the cross motivate us to follow, and to live an extra-ordinary life?*

The concept of 'evil' in the Bible is much more normal and common place than the extreme uses of the word in our society. Evil has the same root word as "brokenness".