

# Flip Flops

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Life Group Agenda for the week of July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>

**WELCOME (15 min)** – Welcome everyone. This is a time for us to focus outward on our relationships with one another. Share the Goals and 1 Guideline. This week, we are continuing in our series titled, “*Summer Splash*.” Let’s **stop and pray** for our church at this time.

**WORSHIP (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus upward on our relationship with the Lord. Prepare a creative worship time that can be enjoyed by Children as well as adults/teens (*you will be releasing the Children to their Kids Slot time after the worship*).

**WORD (45 min)** – This is a time for us to focus inward and discover what the Lord is saying to us individually and collectively through His Word.

**This week’s truth to be shared:** *When you choose to follow Christ in obedience, He walks with you no matter who you are.*

Today, we are discussing what it means to have the Lord walk with us. When I was a child, I remember my dad always seemed to lag behind when we were walking. Maybe I was walking too fast! He would often say, “Why are you in such a hurry? Slow down and walk with me.” Sometimes the Lord is saying that to us. “Slow down and walk with me. I want to spend time with you. I want you to learn from me.”

**INTRODUCTION: If you could take a walk anywhere in the world, where would you take a walk?**

Allow 5 – 7 minutes for this question.

**Read Matthew 9:9-12**

**OBSERVATION: In this passage we see that Matthew took the opportunity to follow and walk with Jesus, why do think Matthew invited Jesus to his house for dinner?**

An important point to remember is that Matthew was a tax collector. Tax collectors in that day received a commission off of what they collected. Some were unscrupulous men who would take more than what was required from a person so that they could keep even more money. People didn’t care too much for tax collectors and many of the religious leaders saw them as scum.

Spend about 5 – 7 minutes on this question.

**UNDERSTANDING #1: What do you think was the significance of Jesus and His disciples going to Matthew's house to eat with him and his friends?**

**UNDERSTANDING #2: What do you think it was like for Matthew to have Jesus in His home on this occasion?**

The religious leaders of the day were constantly looking for an opportunity to trap Jesus and they thought they had found one in this instance. They could not understand why someone who claimed to be the Son of God and the Messiah would be seen spending time with "those" people. They were always more concerned about the outward appearance than with the attitude of the heart.

**APPLICATION #1: Do you make it a point to slow down and "walk" with the Lord daily?**

**APPLICATION #2: Do you introduce others to Him so that they can begin their journey of walking with Him?**

**APPLICATION #3: What can we do to be more consistent with these endeavors in our lives?**

Jesus wants you to spend time with Him. He wants to spend time with you. Decide on a time and place where you will meet with Him each day. Think of others who would benefit from a relationship with the Lord and determine to talk to them this week about the opportunity to walk with Jesus.

**WITNESS (15 min)** – This is a time for us to focus outward on our ministry to the world.

- Share any praise reports from your FRAN list that you've been praying for.
- **Life Group Connection Event:** Tell your Life Group how they can reach out to those in the Worship Services next to them and invite those looking for a Life Group. Don't forget to share the Life Group Business Cards your Community Pastor gave to you. The event is following all services on **August 6 & 7 and August 13 & 14.**
- **August 11th and 12th – Global Leadership Summit**  
(<http://www.celebrationchurch.org/summit>)
- **August 13th – Leadership Summit** – Invite the future leaders in your group.
- **August 14<sup>th</sup> – I Want to KNOW Luncheon...** has everyone in your Life Group attended, yet?
- Don't stop... **SERVE LIKE CRAZY**, plan your Life Groups next serve event.
- Make Shared Ministry Assignments and then Fellowship together.

*(Now is the time to welcome the children back into the group and let them share something about what they've learned. Have a brief time of prayer with the whole group before fellowship).*