# **SERIES discussion guide A black sign with white text AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**THE OUTSIDERS  
ABE MATOS**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

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 **MESSAGE RECAP**We kicked off *The Outsiders* by looking at who Jesus chose to be His closest followers. And honestly? They weren’t the obvious picks. He chose fishermen, a skeptic, a tax collector, a nationalist revolutionary, and even someone He knew would betray Him. Jesus intentionally brought together people who would never sit at the same table.

The Last Supper wasn’t a perfect painting; it was more like Thanksgiving with your most complicated relatives. And right in that tension, Jesus prayed for His followers to be one—so the world would believe He was sent by the Father.

Unity isn’t the absence of differences—it’s the presence of Jesus.

**WARM-UP QUESTION**

* What’s the most “chaotic family meal” you’ve ever been part of? *(Holiday drama, funny moment, odd guest—keep it fun!)*

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read John 1:35-42, 45-49. Who does Jesus intentionally invite to follow Him? What stands out about His choices? *(Andrew and Peter were fishermen—ordinary, passed over. Nathanael was skeptical. Jesus didn’t pick the logical “best of the best.”)*
2. Have you ever felt “passed over” or “not the obvious choice”? How did that make you feel? How did Jesus meet you in that?
3. In John 1:45-46, Philip tells Nathanael, “Come and see.”
   * Who gave you your “come and see” moment with Jesus?
   * Who might need that invitation from you now?
4. Read Matthew 9:9-12. Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector (someone who profited off his own people), and then has dinner with him and many “tax collectors and sinners.” The Pharisees are shocked.
   * What does it say about Jesus that He starts a relationship around a meal?
   * Where might Jesus be inviting you to lean in with curiosity instead of judgment?
5. Read Matthew 10:1-4. Which name or backstory on that list surprises you? And why?
6. The list of apostles includes Simon the Zealot (a nationalist revolutionary) and Matthew the tax collector – polar opposites.
   * What does it say about Jesus’ kingdom that He wanted both at His table?
   * If they can stay at the table, who might Jesus be inviting you to make space for?
7. The real Last Supper. Imagine the table: Peter (impulsive), Thomas (doubter), Matthew (despised), Judas (betrayer), John (teenager). Jesus brought very different people together to show what His kingdom looks like.
   * When you think about people you interact with, what makes it hard to stay connected or “at the same table” with them?
   * What helps you have healthy relationships with people who see the world differently than you?
8. Read John 17:20-23. Jesus prays that His followers would be one, so that the world would believe.
   * What most threatens unity for you (ego, assumptions, gossip, fear)?
   * What does unity look like **in real life**—not uniformity, but Christ-centered love?

**APPLICATION QUESTION**

1. Pick one “Add a chair” step this month:
   * Invite someone outside your normal circle to your table (coffee, lunch, dinner).
   * Join a serve team and meet people beyond your bubble.
   * Pray John 17:20-21 for our church — “Make us one so the world may believe.”

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Your closing prayer can include:

1. **Gratitude** – *Jesus, thank you for loving us in all our imperfections and for inviting unlikely people to Your table.*
2. **Acknowledgment of new insights** – *We are grateful for the wisdom You have given us today. Help it take root in our hearts.*
3. **Request for guidance** – *As we go into our week, we ask for a spirit of unity. Help us add a chair, protect unity, and love like You so the world sees You through us. Amen.*