

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry

Juen 7, 2026

Point/Counter-point – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.*

Prayer O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p38)

Introduction: Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the world. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Matthew 9: 9-13, 18-26

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?

Who does Jesus' call in this story?

Where do you see God's mercy enacted in this story?

Through Matthew?

Through the hemorrhaging woman?

Through the leader's daughter?

God you see God's mercy proclaimed through others?

What is the role of faith in this story?

How does this story influence your own faith?

Read again Romans 4: 14-25

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is the role of faith in this passage?

How does this story influence your own faith?

How does the law help us understand grace?

Why is the law important to receive grace?

How is 'hoping against hope' an image of grace?

'(God) gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist' is a beautiful statement of faith that proclaims God's divine power and mercy.

What are one or two other things you know to be true about God?

Read and reflect on Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15 if you'd like.

Prayer Requests and Prayer