

Story Resource : Matthew decided to follow Jesus

Week 4

You need : Matthew, sitting at money table, Jesus, two women, guests

One day Jesus was walking slowly through a town, chatting to the people. He saw a man called Matthew sitting collecting money for the Romans. Just then Jesus came up to Matthew and shook hands with him. The other people were surprised to see a good man like Jesus talking to Matthew because he wasn't well liked. They told their friends about it.

(One of the women to audience: You know that good man, Jesus? Well, he's being friendly with that tax-collector, Matthew! It doesn't seem right to me.)

Then Jesus told Matthew he wanted him as one of his followers, one of his special friends.

(Jesus: Come and follow me, Matthew.)

Matthew was very happy that Jesus had chosen him. He was quite surprised, too. He jumped up straight away and told Jesus he would love to follow him.

(Matthew: Yes. Jesus, I'll come. I'd love to follow you!)

He even invited Jesus to dinner that day.

(Matthew: Will you come to dinner with me today?)

Jesus thanked him and said that he would love to come.

(Jesus: Thank you, Matthew I'd love to come.)

So together they went off to Matthew's house. On their way home, Matthew kept inviting his friends to join in the dinner party.

(General conversation: would you like to come to dinner? -Yes please; thank you, etc.)

Till by the time they reached Matthew's house there was quite a crowd. Matthew showed them all where to sit down, and gave Jesus the seat at the head of the table. Then they all had a lovely feast with lots to eat and drink. There were quite a lot of bad people among the guests, but Jesus was quite happy to be with them. A church leader came and looked at Jesus eating with all the sinners. He asked Jesus why he was with people like that. Didn't he know what kind of people they were?

(Pharisees: Why are you mixing with these sinners, Jesus? Don't you know what they're like?)

Jesus came over to him. He explained that God loves people whatever they're like, so we must be forgiving as well.

(Jesus: God loves people whatever they are like, you see. So if God is ready to forgive, we must forgive too.)

He said it was like a doctor - he does not visit the healthy ones, he visits those who are ill.

(Jesus: I'll try and explain. A doctor doesn't come to see the healthy people, does he? He comes to help those who are ill. And God comes to put us right when we go wrong.)

And Jesus went back to eat dinner with all the sinners who needed his love to heal them.

Simple retelling of the story of Matthew the Tax Collector

Before Matthew knew Jesus he was called Levi. He was very unpopular because he was a tax collector. This meant he worked for the Romans. Tax collectors were often very greedy and would cheat people by charging them too much money so they weren't very popular.

One day he met Jesus and Jesus asked him to become one of his followers. Everyone was surprised that Jesus had even spoken to Matthew. They could not understand why Jesus was befriending him; they were even more surprised when Matthew agreed. Jesus accepted Matthew's invitation to go to his house to have a meal with his friends. (To many onlookers, this was a shocking thing for Jesus to do - tax collectors were considered to be outcasts.)

From this extraordinary day, Levi became known as Matthew, which means 'gift of the Lord'. He left behind his old life, his wealth and power, and gave up everything to become one of Jesus' followers. He devoted his life to telling others about Jesus and he wrote down his story of Jesus' life, called the Gospel of Matthew. It is the first book in the New Testament.

The Calling of Matthew

Pick and Choose

(Matthew 9:9)

Colour the STRIPED letters to find a tax-collector Jesus chose as an apostle.



"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."
Matthew 9 verse 12

Try this wordsearch

"Follow Me"



R	V	G	Q	Z	I	I	R	T	E	A	C	H	E	R
J	G	Y	D	M	Q	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
D	W	J	X	D	F	Z	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	L
R	I	R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	J	O	W	F
C	F	N	K	S	X	A	S	Q	E	J	H	A	J	O
G	O	L	N	J	E	R	R	C	A	K	Z	N	W	L
D	W	L	V	E	E	O	I	I	D	P	X	N	X	L
O	D	V	L	N	R	F	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	O
C	I	B	N	E	I	E	P	S	Z	I	Z	L	P	W
T	M	I	O	R	C	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	Y	T
O	S	K	C	O	D	T	Y	Y	C	P	D	K	N	E
R	R	A	D	V	T	C	O	W	R	C	C	G	S	T
T	S	B	B	L	R	H	U	R	W	I	D	U	D	B
J	A	N	G	E	Z	Z	P	E	S	T	O	Y	U	N
L	G	E	M	R	D	U	E	H	Q	H	I	I	O	Z



Matthew
sitting
booth
follow

house
collectors
dinner
sinners

disciples
teacher
healthy
doctor

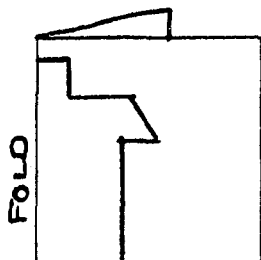
sick
mercy
sacrifice
righteous

Prayer Resource

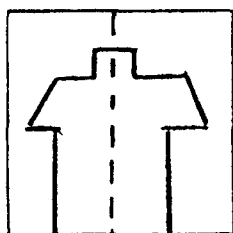
You need : *A piece of A5 paper per child, pencils (or cut freehand !!)
scissors*

Remind the children that Matthew invited Jesus to his home for a meal.

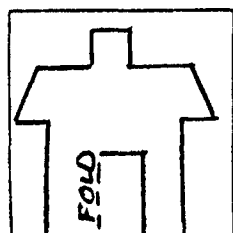
1. Give a piece of A5 paper to each child. Fold in half.



2. Draw half a house . Cut out and flatten out to give whole house shape.

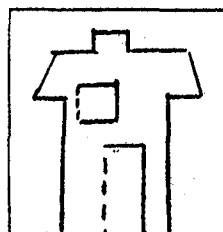


3. Pray : **House** – pray for your homes, shelter, security, that Jesus will live there with you.



4. Cut out a door, remembering to only cut three sides so the door folds open

5. Pray : **Door** – Pray for visitors to our homes and that we will offer a good welcome.



6. Cut out a window (on three sides again, like the door)

7. Pray : **Window** – looking out of the window, we see the world and its needs, pray that we might see and respond to the needs of others