

Session 3

LEVI / MATTHEW

Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

Supplies

- ◆ Pictures of Jesus and a religious man (the disciple cards)
- ◆ Toilet rolls or popsicle sticks to keep the pictures of the disciples upright
- ◆ Ice cream sticks
- ◆ Paper, boxes, crayons, glue, and scissors
- ◆ Copies of invitations for each child on paper or cardboard
- ◆ For older children: copy of a broken heart activity for each person, plasters, coloured paper or magazines, glue, scissors, pens



WELCOME

- ❖ Play any game where children have to make choices.
- ❖ Use the disciple cards and repeat the names of the disciples again in a memory game or “Go Fish”.

Which disciple was very rich? Choose a card/picture. (It’s the one with the abacus.)

Yes, it’s Matthew! He was also named Levi. It’s the one with the abacus. He was a taxman – that was someone who collected taxes for the Roman government. People did not like him! They thought he was sinful and sneaky! They thought he was taking other people’s money and a little bit extra for himself. Today we are going to hear how Jesus **chose** him as a disciple and went to eat with him.



WORSHIP

Sing the **theme song** as in session 1.

Settle-down ritual:

Hand out the invitations and read them together.

To my dearest child

I love you so much. I choose you. I want to be your friend. It doesn't matter that you've done bad things. I forgive you.

Can I come to your home today? I want to be part of your life.

What is your answer?

.....

With love,

Jesus

I wonder how you feel when reading this invitation. Share with each other.

Let each person write his/her name and answer on the invitation and share it in prayer afterwards.



You can explain what a tax collector is (someone who collects taxes) and that people thought tax collectors were sinful and sneaky (because they asked for more money than they should have, so that they could take some for themselves.)

Luke 5:27 – 32:

(Use the sandbox and let the children portray the story with the disciple cards.)

“Afterward, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. The tax collectors made people pay a lot of money, so nobody wanted anything to do with them. Jesus said to him: ‘Follow me. Leave what you are busy with and become one of my disciples!’

Levi got up, left everything behind, and followed him. Then Levi threw a great banquet for Jesus in his home. A large number of tax collectors and others sat down to eat with them. The Pharisees and their legal experts grumbled against his disciples. They said: ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’

Jesus answered: ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor, but sick people do. I didn’t come to call righteous people but sinners to change their hearts and lives.’”

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how you would feel if you were Levi (Matthew).
2. I wonder how you would react if you were Levi and you heard Jesus chose you to follow Him.
3. I wonder what Levi’s friends were thinking.
4. I wonder why the Pharisees were surprised.
5. I wonder what Jesus, Levi, and Levi’s friends talked about.

Jesus explained that He is like a doctor. What does that mean? Let’s think together about the things that Jesus heals. *(Give them time to talk and think of answers for themselves.)*

Possible answers...

Jesus heals your...

- * illness
- * sin
- * mistakes
- * loneliness
- * anger
- * sadness
- * doubt



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

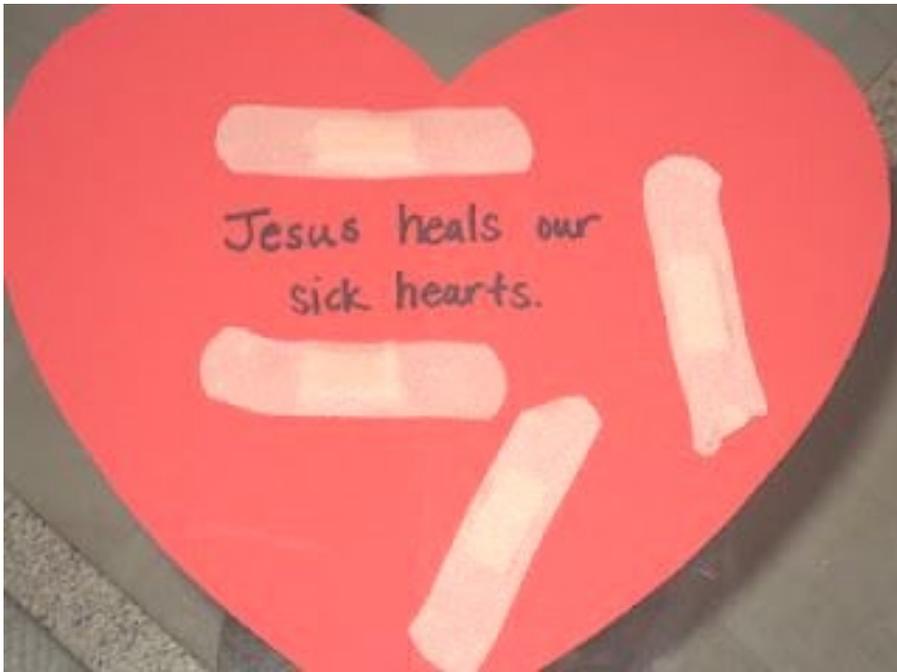
For younger children:

- ✍ Each child makes a popsicle-person. Write on the back. "I am invited!" Each person can decorate their own popsicle-person.
- ✍ Make a dinner table with people and write "Jesus, come eat with me."
- ✍ Make a card of Jesus and the Pharisees for your collection. Use the cards from the first session and let the children play the story again.

For older children:

- ✍ Make a broken heart collage. Use coloured paper or magazines. Write promises from the story on the plasters, for example "Jesus calls you", "Jesus invites you", "Jesus is your friend", "Jesus heals you", etc. Afterwards the plasters are used to glue the two pieces of the broken heart together.

Close with the **benediction** as in session 1.



“It is not the healthy
who need a doctor,
but the sick. I have
not come to call the
righteous, but sinners
to repentance.”

Luke 5:31,32