

Life of Christ

Matthew the tax collector Matt. 9:9-10; 6:19-33

Younger Verse

How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9

Older Verse

How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9

Lesson Goals

Examine your life to see what is most important?
Are you willing to leave all to follow Jesus like Matthew did?

Welcome Time

If there was a fire, what would be the 3 things that you would grab and take with you? We have lots of “stuff” that is important to us. Let’s see what Jesus says about it.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus went from town to town telling people about God. He also invited people to go with Him. Jesus had already asked 4 fishermen to come and follow Him. They excitedly followed, not sure what was to come.

One day, Jesus was in a town and He saw a tax collector named Matthew. Matthew’s job was to collect taxes from people. Back then, they did not have computers or cash registers that added tax to a purchase. The tax collectors would go to everyone in town and demand taxes for things that they bought. Some tax collectors were sneaky and would ask for more than they would need. They would keep the extra.

Jesus walked up to Matthew’s money table. Jesus asked Matthew to come and follow Him. Immediately, Matthew left the table and followed Jesus. He knew that Jesus was more important than money. He freely gave up these things and began to walk with Jesus.

The Bible tells us that Jesus went to Matthew’s house for dinner. Many of Matthew’s friends came to listen and learn. Matthew knew that Jesus could change their lives too. He invited his friends so that they could see that Jesus was more important than anything else in the world.

In another part of the Bible, Jesus shares what is most important. It is not money, clothes, or any “stuff.” Jesus says that God must be more important than anything else. We should store up treasures that will last in Heaven,

not things that will break, rust, wear out, or change. Jesus also tells us not to worry about things. He tells us that God will take care of us. Lastly, He shares that we should seek God first and everything else will work out. That means we should live for God and do things for Him and He will take care of all our needs.

Matthew knew that God was more important than money. He left all the “stuff” that had controlled him and he followed Jesus. What about you? Do you love God more than “stuff”? Are their things in your life that you love more than Jesus? Matthew walked away from the “stuff” and he lived for God. Are you willing to do this?

Jesus died and came back to life to make a way for us to go to Heaven. If we believe in Him and trust Him with all our heart, He will come into our life and clean out all the sin that is there. He will make us clean. Jesus will help us do things God’s way and help us live for God instead of for the things we want. If you want to know more about loving God, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Help the kids see how important it is to love God most of all.

Memory Verse Activities

Talk about how “stuff” can make our life impure by getting us side-tracked. We focus on the “stuff” more than God. Share how reading the Bible and listening to God will help us keep on track.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us love Him more than anything else.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snack “treasures” with the kids.

Planning for October 27th
How can I encourage someone?
Jesus encourages His friends
John 14:1-6

Preschool Lesson
For
Matthew

(Bring pennies and tell the kids that they will give them to you at a certain time in the lesson.)

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One day, Jesus was in a town and He saw a tax collector named Matthew. Matthew's job was to collect taxes from people. Back then, they did not have computers or cash registers that added tax to a purchase. The tax collectors would go to everyone in town and demand taxes for things that they bought. (Ask the kids to give you their pennies) Some tax collectors were sneaky and would ask for more than they would need. They would keep the extra.

Jesus walked up to Matthew's money table. Jesus asked Matthew to come and follow Him. Immediately, Matthew left the table and followed Jesus. He knew that Jesus was more important than money. He freely gave up these things and began to walk with Jesus.

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Sing this to the tune of "BINGO."

There was a man who took money
And Matthew was his name-O
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY is what he collected.

Jesus came into the town
And Matthew followed Him now
JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, He loved Him most of all.

Hands-On Activities For Matthew

Sing the song “Seek ye first.”

In our world of commercialization, it is hard to live for God instead of the things we want. Talk about the kinds of treasure that will last in Heaven versus those that will not last.

Bring a little toy train or a toy car. Share how horrible it is if a train runs off a track or a car runs off the road. Share how “stuff” can get us off track. Explain that God will help us stay on track or on the right road!

Talk about how Matthew invited his friends to meet Jesus. Ask the kids for ideas on how to invite their friends to church. Think of fun ways to help new people come.

God wants us to work and make money but He does not want us to be obsessed with getting money or using it to buy things that take time away from Him.

Jesus reminded His friends that the birds did not worry about what they ate or what they wore and God took care of them. Ask the kids to draw a bird and remember that God loves them and will take care of all their needs.

Before class, wrap a piece of paper with the word “God” on it in clear wrap and hide it inside a box or pan of sand. Ask the kids to carefully dig for treasure in the sand. What is the treasure—God! (Teachers: you may want to do this outside so sand is easy to clean up.)

All the kids have played on a merry-go-round at a park. Share that when a person stays in the center of the merry-go-round, they are stable. When a person sits near the edge, there is a higher chance that the person will fall off. Explain that when God is in the center of our lives, we are calm and stable. However, when we choose stuff above God, God is not in the center anymore; we slide to the edge of the merry-go-round. There is a higher chance that we will get into trouble or do wrong things. What is the moral of the story: Keep God as the center of your life, not stuff.