



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 25: Jesus Calls Matthew

Scripture

Matthew 9:9-13
 Mark 2:13-17, 3:13-19
 Luke 5:27-32; 6:12-16

Memory Verse

God was pleased to trust us with His message. We didn't speak to please people, but to please God who knows our motives.
 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus invites us to follow Him.

Understand that the choice is yours.

Understand that following Jesus means that we speak to please God, not ourselves.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Let's look back over a few of our last lessons. What do you remember about Jesus' first followers? What were their names? (Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip and Nathanael) Where were the first four when Jesus called them? (The Sea of Galilee) How did Jesus call them to Himself? (He said, "Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men [people].") We have seen how Jesus began teaching them by example. In our last lesson, we talked about the power Jesus had to heal. He has power over demons and power over sickness. We even saw Jesus tell a paralyzed man to get up and walk! Do you remember that Jesus was in a very crowded house? It was packed inside and the front yard was full, too. This paralyzed man had four friends who cared about him so much that, when they couldn't enter the house through the door, they made a hole in the roof and lowered him through it! That same man walked away from that house praising God.

"After this, Jesus left the house." (Luke 5:27a NIV) He went out toward the Sea of Galilee. This was where Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John had worked as fishermen. It was where Jesus called them to begin fishing for men [people]. Many people followed Jesus and He taught them there, at the Sea of Galilee, where He had taught many times. As Jesus walked along the shore, He saw a man named Levi, or Matthew. Matthew was sitting at a tax collector's table. As a tax collector, Matthew worked with the permission of, and under contract, to the Roman government to collect taxes. Once those taxes were collected, Matthew also had the permission of the Roman government to collect as much more money as he wanted to. For this reason, tax collectors were usually very rich, but also very hated.

That didn't matter to Jesus, though. Jesus approached Matthew. Matthew may have seen and heard Jesus teaching along the coast before that day, but this day was different. Jesus stood before Matthew and simply said, "Follow me," and "Matthew got up and followed Him." (Matthew 9:9 NIV) Like Peter, Andrew, James and John, Matthew left everything to follow Jesus. Unlike those four fishermen, Matthew couldn't have easily returned to his job if this idea of following Jesus didn't work out. Someone else would be awarded Matthew's contract. That day on the beach, when Jesus called him, Matthew wasn't just leaving a job. Matthew's entire life was changing. When Matthew got up and followed Jesus, He was giving his life to serve the Lord.

In celebration of his new life, Matthew gave a huge dinner at his house for Jesus. There were a lot of people there. Many of Matthew's old friends were there. Some leaders of the law (Pharisees) were there, too. In the midst of this wonderful celebration, the Pharisees began to complain, "Why does He eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" (Mark 2:16b NIV) Jesus answered them and said, "Those who are healthy don't need a doctor. Sick people do. Go and learn what this means, 'I want mercy and not sacrifice.'—(Hosea 6:6)

Application

Has Jesus made all the difference in your life?

If not, please talk with me when we finish. I would love to explain to you how to do this.

If so, are you following Jesus' example? Are you a "disciple" of Jesus the way Peter and Andrew and the others were? They were just ordinary men who chose to learn from the best, Jesus.

Our memory verse says, "God was pleased to trust us with His message. We didn't speak to please people, but to please God who knows our motives." (1 Thessalonians 2:4 CEV) Jesus' disciples didn't speak to please people. They wanted to please God. Who are you choosing to please? Will you commit to follow Jesus' example and please God in all that you say and do?

I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me." (Matthew 9:12-13 NIV) Jesus not only has the power to heal physical sickness, he also has the power to heal our sin-sickness. You see, people who think they have it all together see no need to put God in control of their lives. Sinners, those who know they have problems in their lives, are aware of their need for God.

After this, "Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray. He spent the night praying to God." (Luke 6:12 NIV) In the morning, Jesus called those who had been following Him. "He appointed 12 of them and called them apostles. From that time on they would be with Him. He would also send them out to preach. They would have authority to drive out demons." (Mark 3:14-15 NIV) These were things Jesus had already been showing them. He was teaching them by example. The twelve men that Jesus chose would be trained by watching Him, learning from Him, and imitating Him in the sense that they would do what Jesus did. "Simon was one of them. Jesus gave him the name Peter. There were also Simon's brother Andrew, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew [Nathanael]. And there were Matthew, Thomas, and James, son of Alphaeus. There were also Simon who was called the Zealot and Judas, son of James. Judas Iscariot was one of them too. He was the one who would later hand Jesus over to His enemies." (Luke 6:14-16 NIV) These were twelve very ordinary men. They were like you and me. There was nothing particularly special about them. What made them special was the teacher they chose to follow. These men accepted Jesus' invitation to learn from Him—and that made all the difference.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Teaches from a Mountainside



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a bag of money.

Do you remember the man we talked about in our last lesson? Four of his friends took him to Jesus. Jesus healed the man. After that, Jesus left the house where they had been. He went out toward the Sea of Galilee. Many people followed Jesus. He taught them there. As Jesus walked along the shore, He saw a man named Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. He took money from people to pay Roman taxes. He also took extra money from people just because he wanted to. That is why most tax collectors were usually very rich. People also hated them very much. (Show your students the bag of money.)

Jesus came up to Matthew. Jesus stood before Matthew and said, "Follow me," and "Matthew got up and followed Him." (Matthew 9:9 NIRV) To celebrate his new life, Matthew gave a huge dinner at his house for Jesus. There were a lot of people there. Matthew even invited some of his old friends.

After this, "Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray. He spent the night praying to God." (Luke 6:12 NIRV) In the morning, Jesus called those who had been following Him. He chose 12 of them. He called them apostles. They would be with Him. He would also send them out to preach. These were things Jesus had already been showing them. He was teaching them by example. The twelve men that Jesus chose would learn from Him.

"Simon was one of them. Jesus gave him the name Peter. There were also Simon's brother Andrew, James, John, Philip and Bartholomew [Nathanael]. And there were Matthew, Thomas, and James, son of Alphaeus. There were also Simon who was called the Zealot and Judas, son of James. Judas Iscariot was one of them too. He was the one who would later hand Jesus over to His enemies." (Luke 6:14-16 NIRV)



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Read the memory verse in several different translations. Discuss how we should serve God. Using a sheet of colored construction paper and a sheet of white construction paper, make a “book.” Stack the two pieces of paper together and fold with the white paper inside. Label your book “The Holy Bible.” Write the memory verse on the inside of the “Bible,” across the pages.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring gold coins for the snack. Discuss Matthew’s profession and what he gave up to follow Jesus.
- Reviewing what you know (and studying to find out more) about the disciples, make a poster for each one with pictures and words that represents each well.
- Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” “Every Day With Jesus,” “I Will,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel.
- Dig Deeper: Have you learned what it means that “[God]‘ wants mercy and not sacrifice.’—(Hosea 6:6)?” Discuss this.
- Dig Deeper: Read Robert Frost’s poem, “The Road Not Taken.” Also read Matthew 7:13-27 and discuss.

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to trust us
with His message.
We didn't speak to
please people,
but to **please God**
who knows our
motives.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

Trace the letters.

JESUS SAYS,

"FOLLOW

ME."

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S U R T G
N N E A N D O N L Y S O N O Y
O G D V O W R D O Y U H D P M
W E V E R Y O N E S E W T L I
S D P E W O R G R G A E W E H
O K L O W E H T H S I E I A N
U G E E O W R V P Y L G O S I
R D A R O W E L M D E A O E S
M O S E I S E H E O N S H P E
O D E A D A O E V U O S E E V
T N G L S U R W A R U E V O E
I S O E A W D O G T A M W P D
V H D I R E P T E N L S I L L
E Y S K A E P S T N D I D E W
S O Y E U R W O R D R H W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

God was pleased to trust us with His message.

We didn't speak to please people,
but to please God who knows our motives.

1 Thessalonians 2:4



Word Search

K	Y	O	H	R	W	O	S	U	T	S	U	R	T	G
N	N	E	A	N	D	O	N	L	Y	S	O	N	O	Y
O	G	D	V	O	W	R	D	O	Y	U	H	D	P	M
W	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N	E	S	E	W	T	L	I
S	D	P	E	W	O	R	G	R	G	A	E	W	E	H
O	K	L	O	W	E	H	T	H	S	I	E	I	A	N
U	G	E	E	O	W	R	V	P	Y	L	G	O	S	I
R	D	A	R	O	W	E	L	M	D	E	A	O	E	S
M	O	S	E	I	S	E	H	E	O	N	S	H	P	E
O	D	E	A	D	A	O	E	V	U	O	S	E	E	V
T	N	G	L	S	U	R	W	A	R	U	E	V	O	E
I	S	O	E	A	W	D	O	G	T	A	M	W	P	D
V	H	D	I	R	E	P	T	E	N	L	S	I	L	L
E	Y	S	K	A	E	P	S	T	N	D	I	D	E	W
S	O	Y	E	U	R	W	O	R	D	R	H	W	M	B

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Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

SEA

MATTHEW

TAX COLLECTOR

FOLLOW ME

TWELVE



Preschool Word Search

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

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