



WEEK
TWO
OCTOBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Change Your Mind
Matthew
Matthew 9:9-13

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Knowing Jesus changes
how you see yourself.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

How you made me is amazing and
wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful.
I know that very well.
Psalm 139:14, NIRV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Individuality—Discovering who
you're meant to be so you
can make a difference

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Oh, yeah! God made us to praise Him. When we sing, we can celebrate who God is and what He's done.

AUDIO: Might Get Loud

AUDIO: Graves Into Gardens

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hello, everyone! Look at all of you custom creations. Did you know that you're a custom creation? It's true. There's only one you. God made you as a completely amazing, completely one-of-a-kind, individual. And you can use your individuality for an important purpose.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Individuality is discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME



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"Raise your hand if you've ever made a custom creation of your own—like at a candy or ice cream shop. *(Pause for response.)* What's your favorite kind of ice cream? *(Pause for response.)* What kind of toppings do you like on it? *(Pause for response.)* Oh, I love those, too!

"One of my favorite ice cream flavors is definitely mint chocolate chip. I'm so glad someone thought to create THAT combination. Seriously, chocolate and mint—who knew they'd be so good together?

"I've got a fun game to kick off our time today . . . and it just so happens to involve some (air quotes) 'mint chocolate chip' *(more air quotes)* 'ice cream.'

Reveal the plastic tub full of mint chocolate chip ice cream (green colored whipped cream with Hershey's Kisses® inside.

"Okay, it's actually green whipped cream . . . but we can pretend! Let me get three contestants who would like to come play.

Pick three kids, in a variety of ages, who don't have any allergy concerns. Give each of them an apron, a chef's hat, and a pair of long kitchen gloves. Have the three contestants stand behind the table with the bin of "ice cream."

"[Kids' names], you'll be working as a team—and we'll all cheer you on. Inside this giant container of 'ice cream' are 15 extra-large chocolate chips. They look like this. *(Hold up a Hershey's Kiss®.)*

"You'll have two minutes to find and pull out all 15 of the 'chocolate chips' in this bin. But you must go one at a time! [Kid's name], you'll go first. When you find a chocolate chip, put it in this bowl, then keep looking for more. We'll all keep count for you. *(go kid #1)* When you've found five chocolate chips, then it's [kid #2]'s turn to step in and find five. After that, it'll be [kid #3]'s turn to try to find the final five chips.

"Do you think we can do it? I believe we can! Let's play. Ready, set, go!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Set a timer on your phone for two minutes. Comment on the action as the contestants search for the "chocolate chips." Get the audience to help you keep count as the contestants drop the chips in the bowl.

If it looks like they may not find all 15 chips in time, you can speed up the process by letting all of them search at the same time.

Once the contestants find all 15 chips, congratulate them, collect their props, and dismiss them to their seats.

"[Kids' names], great job of discovering where all those chocolate chips were 'MINT' to be.



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BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! We have an awesome Bible story for you today about a man named Matthew.

"Matthew was one of Jesus' closest friends. He traveled with Jesus and saw Jesus do amazing things. He even wrote a book that we have in the Bible today. (*Hold up Bible.*) Can you guess what it's called? (Pause for response.) That's right—Matthew!

"Our story begins when Matthew first met Jesus. At the time, Matthew was working as a tax collector. And tax collectors weren't exactly the good guys. They worked for the Roman government—the same government that was pretty mean to God's people. So when someone was a tax collector, they were basically working for the enemy. On top of that, tax collectors were known for lying about how much money people owed the Roman government so they could take some extra money for themselves. We're not sure if Matthew did that, but tax collectors very often did.

"Can I get some of you to come up here and help me tell the story? I'll need five actors.

Bring up five kids. Give each of them the LEGO® head sign that corresponds to their character. (For the two Pharisees, pick older kids who won't be upset to play the "villains.")

"As you can see, our actors look a lot like LEGO® people! (*Reference the first kid.*) First, we have Matthew. Matthew, you're a tax collector, so you're feeling pretty grumpy.

Cue the kid playing Matthew to hold up the grumpy side of the face sign.

(*Reference the next kid.*) "Next, we have Jesus.

Cue the kid to hold up the Jesus face sign.

(*Reference the next two kids.*) "Here, we have a couple of Pharisees. They were some of the religious people who didn't like Jesus very much.

Cue the two kids to hold up the grumpy Pharisee face signs.

(*Reference the next kid.*) "Finally, we have one of Matthew's friends—another tax collector. It looks like he was also pretty grumpy."

Cue the kid to hold up the grumpy side of the tax collector face sign.

MATTHEW MEETS JESUS

STORYTELLER: (*to the kid playing Matthew.*) "Matthew, you can come over to your tax collector booth.



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Cue Matthew to stand behind the table with the "TAXES" sign, still holding up the grumpy face sign.

"Matthew didn't know it at the time, but his life was about to change forever . . . because Jesus had come to town! Look, I can see Jesus now. He's walking along the road.

Cue the kid playing Jesus to walk in place, still holding up the face sign.

"People were excited to see Jesus, because He had been teaching and healing people in other towns. So when He came to Matthew's town, everyone had already heard about the great things He was doing.

"Listen to what happened next.

Open the Bible to Matthew 9:9 (NirV) and read. As you read, direct "Jesus" to walk up to "Matthew."

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew. He was sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus told him. Matthew got up and followed him.

"Can you believe that? Jesus of course knew about Matthew's job as a tax collector. He knew Matthew had gotten rich off of other people's money. But He told Matthew to follow Him anyway!

"How do you think Matthew felt about that? (Pause for response.) Right—he was no longer grumpy. He was HAPPY!"

Cue the kid playing Matthew to flip the face sign around to the happy side.

LET'S EAT!

STORYTELLER: "Matthew didn't waste any time. He got up and followed Jesus. In fact, Matthew was so excited that he invited Jesus and His friends to have dinner at his house.

Direct "Matthew" and "Jesus" to walk to the long table and sit down in the chairs. Place the pizza box in the middle of the table.

"I know—they probably didn't have pizza. But you get the idea!

"There were some other people who had come to Matthew's house, too—like other tax collectors.

Cue the kid playing the other tax collector to sit down at the table.

"There were lots of others who had come for dinner, too—people who had done wrong things in their lives. But Jesus didn't send them away. Everyone was welcome to join the meal at Matthew's house. It was like a big party!

"Let's turn that frown upside down!"

Cue the kid playing the other tax collector to flip the face sign around to the happy side.



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RIGHT WITH JESUS

STORYTELLER: "Still . . . not everyone was happy about this big party at Matthew's place. Remember the Pharisees—the religious leaders who didn't like Jesus? (*Reference the Pharisees standing to the side.*) They were still feeling pretty grumpy about the whole situation.

"They looked at Jesus' friends, the disciples, and they asked . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 9:11 (NirV) and read.

"Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

(*to the kids playing the Pharisees*) "Come on, Pharisees. Give us a little smile. I mean, JESUS loves all these people. (*Reference the dinner guests.*) He's not worried about the wrong things they've done.

Stand next to the kid playing Jesus.

"Jesus spoke to the Pharisees. (*Cue the kid to stand up.*) He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 9:12-13 (NirV) and read.

"Those who are healthy don't need a doctor. Sick people 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.

"Jesus knew that the Pharisees thought they had it all together. They didn't want to change at all. Instead, Jesus focused on the people like Matthew and his friends, who were very aware that they needed help. They were ready to turn their lives around and follow Jesus.

Flip Matthew and the other tax collector's signs around a couple of times, to reference how Jesus had turned their lives around.

"Let's give all of our actors a hand for helping us with the story!"

Collect the face signs as you dismiss the kids to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "From then on, Matthew did follow Jesus everywhere. He became one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He saw more of what Jesus said and did than almost anyone else. That's what he wrote about in his book of the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) He did it so that other people could know about Jesus and could put their trust in Jesus, too.

"You see, being around Jesus CHANGED Matthew. Jesus didn't see Matthew as a bad guy who had done wrong things. Jesus saw Matthew as someone who was important and valuable and made in the image of God.

"That's how Jesus sees US! He loves us. He knows that God created us with our individuality, so we can show His love and show who He is to other people. And we can choose to follow Jesus, just like Matthew did.



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SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us see ourselves the way He does.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for loving us and creating us in Your image. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior! We all mess up from time to time; but You see each one of us as special and valuable. Help us be like Matthew. Help us choose to follow You and live Your way, every day. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “That is such a cool story! I love how Jesus showed love to Matthew. Other people probably saw Matthew as a bad guy . . . but Jesus saw him as someone special and important.

“The truth is, we ALL mess up. We ALL need Jesus’ love and forgiveness. Never forget that Jesus loves you. He sees how valuable you are, because you’re made in the image of God! Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the things we’ve done wrong—for all our sins. Because He did that, we can be forgiven.

“When you start to see the way Jesus sees you, that will change the way you see yourself. You’ll believe that you’re valuable, too. You’ll be able to live with joy, peace, and confidence because you know that God sent Jesus to be your Savior.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.

“Jesus’ love can CHANGE us, just like it changed Matthew. We can choose to follow Jesus and put our trust in Him. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!**

“If you have questions about how to know and follow Jesus, make sure to tell your Small Group Leader and your parents. You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about how Jesus’ love can change us. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP