

City SG—October 10th-11th, 2021

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)

1. Jesus Said

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Look up Matthew 9:9-13 as a group.
- Invite kids who want to read out loud to take turns reading one verse at a time until the entire passage has been read.
- Help kids review the story by asking the following questions.
 - What was the name of the man Jesus saw at the beginning of the story? (*Matthew*)
 - What two words did Jesus say to Matthew when He saw him? (*Follow me.*)
 - Where did Jesus have dinner that night? (*Matthew's house*)
 - Who did Jesus have dinner with? (*tax collectors and sinners*)
 - Who did Jesus say He came for? (*sinners*)
 - Why was it surprising that Jesus wanted to eat dinner at Matthew's house? (*Because he was a tax collector which meant that people didn't like him or trust him; but by eating with Him, Jesus was saying to everyone that Matthew and people like him are valuable*)
- Direct the kids to stand in front of you.
- Play a game similar to Simon Says.
- Be the leader the first round.
- Tell kids that you will give instructions, but they should only do the action if you say, "Jesus said," before it.
- Give directions like Jesus said to do five jumping jacks; Clap your hands twice; Jesus said to march in place; etc.
- Direct the kids to sit if they do the action without "Jesus said" before it.
- Play several rounds and invite a different kid to be the leader each round. (Encourage self-control and participation by telling kids you can only pick those who have "earned" the right to be the leader.)

What You Say:

"We know that the people who lived during this time did NOT like tax collectors. They especially didn't like Matthew because he was Jewish and a tax collector. That meant he collected money from his own people to give to the Roman government. They REALLY didn't like Matthew. Which meant Matthew probably didn't like himself much either. Have you ever done something that made you not like yourself very much? I know I have.

[Make it Personal] (Share a kid-appropriate time in your life when you didn't like yourself because of something you did. This could be a time when you were a bully, weren't kind to someone, or were disrespectful to your parents. Talk about how you knew it was wrong but you did it anyway and how badly you felt. Share how even though Jesus knows you've done wrong things, He loves you.)

"When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, I bet Matthew couldn't believe that Jesus wanted him as a follower. Did Jesus know what Matthew did as a job? Of course He did. He's Jesus. Jesus showed Matthew that He loved him even though a lot of other people didn't. Jesus LOVED Matthew, even when he didn't love himself. That changed Matthew forever. He learned to love himself because of how Jesus loved him. Don't ever forget that ***[Bottom Line]*** knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself."

2. Candy Dig

What You Need: Buckets filled with crinkle paper and 12 verse strips (1 per group), plastic spoons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Help kids look up Psalm 139:14 in their Bibles.
- Invite a volunteer to read the memory verse out loud.
- Give each kid a plastic spoon.
- Direct the kids to use their spoons to dig for one memory verse strip and put the strip in front of them. Remind them they can only use the spoon and should keep the crinkle paper in the bucket.
- Pass the bucket around until all strips are found.
- Once all phrases have been found, instruct the kids to put them in order.
- Remind the kids that they can use their Bibles as a reference to put it in order.

What You Say:

“How God made us is amazing and wonderful. Today we talked about being able to see ourselves differently because we know Jesus. God created us and sees us for who He created us to be. He doesn’t just see our mess ups and bad choices, He sees ALL of us—even the parts of ourselves we can’t see. We can praise Him for creating us all differently and with so much love!

“One of my favorite ways to praise God is through singing, like we do in Large Group. What are some ways you like to praise God? (*Give kids time to answer. Be ready with some prompts if they get stuck: praying and talking with God, writing in a journal, dancing, singing, reading the Bible.*) Remember, one of the reasons we can praise God is because **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**”

3. Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Sheets (1 blue set, 1 red set per group)

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Help kids look up Psalm 139:14 in their Bibles.
- Invite a volunteer to read the memory verse out loud.
 - If leading a 1st grade group, please read the verse aloud to your group.
- Guide kids to line up in 2 separate lines at one end of your area.
- Set the Memory Verse Sheets at the other end of your area, parallel to each team.
 - Scramble the Sheets up and place them face down.
- On your GO!, kids will race down to the sheets, flip one sheet over and place it in the correct place, then run back and tag the next person in line.
- The first team to put the Memory Verse in the correct order WINS! ***Play as many rounds as time allows.***
 - Some Variations could include: Walking Backwards, Skipping, Crab Walking, Bear Crawling, etc. Have FUN with this!
 - ***NOTE: For younger groups that may struggle with reading, the sheets have numbers on them as well.***

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Use the conversation below to guide kids into a responsive prayer.

What You Say:

"[Kid's name], YOU are AMAZING, WONDERFUL, VALUABLE, and SPECIAL! [Kid's name], YOU are AMAZING, WONDERFUL, VALUABLE, and SPECIAL! (*Repeat with each kid.*) And you know what? When you know how Jesus sees you, it changes how you see yourself, too. Let's pray.

(Prompt kids to say, "amazing and wonderful" when you pause.)

"Dear God, You are (*pause for kids to say 'amazing and wonderful'*).

"How You made each of us is (*pause*).

"Thank You that because YOU see us as (*pause*), we can see OURSELVES as (*pause*), too.

"We love You, Jesus. Amen."