

PRESCHOOL AT HOME FAMILY ACTIVITIES

WEEK OF MAY 9

KEY PASSAGE

He must increase, but I must decrease.
John 3:30



BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why did Jesus become human?

Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

THE BIBLE STORY

JESUS CALLED DISCIPLES
MATTHEW 4 & 9; MARK 1-3; LUKE 5-6

Jesus' ministry had begun. Jesus taught people about God and His Kingdom. People started talking about Jesus and the things He was saying. They wanted to know more, so big crowds of people followed Jesus to hear Him teach.

One day, Jesus was walking along the sea. He saw two brothers: Simon—who was called Peter—and Andrew. Peter and Andrew were fishermen. They were throwing nets into the sea to catch fish.

Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will teach you to fish for people!" Peter and Andrew dropped their nets right away and followed Jesus.

Later, He saw two more brothers: James and John. James and John were in a boat with their father. The men were fixing their fishing nets. Jesus talked to them and they got up, too. James and John left their father and their boat, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus traveled further, and He saw a man named Matthew, also called Levi. Matthew was a tax collector, sitting at an office where people paid taxes. Some people didn't like tax collectors because they often took more money than they were supposed to and kept it for themselves. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow Me!" So Matthew got up. He left everything behind, and he followed Jesus.

Matthew had a big party at his house for Jesus and His friends. Tax collectors and other sinners came. The religious leaders did not think Jesus should be friends with people who did wrong things. They asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does Jesus eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard the leaders and said, "People who are healthy do not need a doctor, but sick people do. I did not come to help good people; I came to help sinners turn back to God."

Later, Jesus chose 12 of His friends to be His disciples. That meant Jesus was going to give them a special job to do. They would work with Jesus and tell others about Him.

These are the men Jesus chose: Simon (who was called Peter), Simon's brother Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.

CHRIST CONNECTION

JESUS CAME TO EARTH TO SHOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE AND SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS. THIS IS VERY GOOD NEWS! JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT HIM, AND WE ARE JESUS' DISCIPLES WHEN WE TRUST IN HIM. EVERYONE IN THE WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS.

PRETEND TO FISH

SUPPLIES NEEDED: PAINTER'S OR MASKING TAPE

Use tape to make an outline of a boat on the floor or turn a table over to serve as a boat. Invite your kids to pretend to fish by playing out casting a fishing rod or net overboard.

Say • Pretending to fish is fun! We use a fishing rod when we go fishing. You cast the hook into the water. Then you wait for the fish to bite on the hook so you can reel it in. The people in our Bible story today had boats and large nets to catch fish. They would throw the net over one side of the boat and wait for many fish to swim into the net. Then they pulled the net closed and took the fish to shore to sell. We learned about several fishermen today in our Bible story. Do you remember what Jesus said to them?

PREPARE A PARTY

SUPPLIES NEEDED: TABLE SETTINGS, DECORATIONS

Encourage your kids to prepare for a party. They may decorate and pretend to serve one another refreshments. While they play, retell the part of the Bible story where Matthew had a big party at his house for Jesus and his friends. Ask them whom they would invite if they had a party for their friends to learn about Jesus.

Say • Jesus chose disciples to follow Him. One of the disciples Jesus chose was a tax collector named Matthew. Matthew had a big party at his house for Jesus and his friends. Some people didn't like tax collectors because they often took more money than they were supposed to and kept it for themselves. The religious leaders did not think Jesus should be friends with a tax collector, but Jesus said, "I did not come to help good people; I came to help sinners turn back to God." Jesus wants all people to turn from their sin and follow Him.