

10. Matthew the Tax Collector

Remember the fishermen Peter, Andrew, James and John. They were fishing when Jesus called them to follow Him. They left their nets and boats to follow Jesus right away. After calling the fishermen, Jesus saw Matthew sitting at a tax office where he worked as a tax collector. Jesus said, "Follow Me." The Bible says Matthew "left all, rose up, and followed Him" (Luke 5:27-28). Matthew is sometimes called Levi.

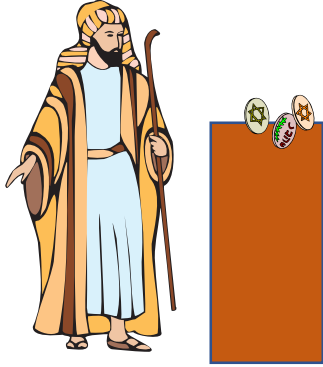
Matthew invited Jesus to his house for a feast. Matthew invited other tax collectors like himself so they could meet Jesus too. Remember how some of the other apostles went to get their friends after they met Jesus? It is good to share Jesus with others!

The Jewish leaders were upset with Jesus because He went to eat with Matthew and his friends. The Jewish people did not like tax collectors because they often took more money than they should from people and kept it for themselves. The Jewish leaders asked why Jesus was eating with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus told them He came to save sinners. Jesus wanted EVERYONE to hear about God and the coming kingdom, which is the church. We need to be like Jesus and teach anyone who will listen about God and His church.

Matthew wrote one of the four books we call the gospels. Those four books tell us about the life of Jesus and the 12 apostles. The gospel is also called the good news.

10. Matthew the Tax Collector

1. Before Jesus asked Matthew to follow him, he was a:



Tax Collector



Fisherman

2. Did Matthew want to follow Jesus?

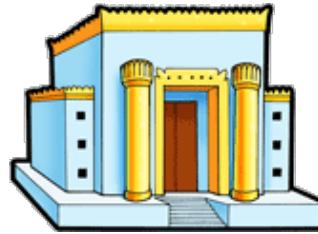
NO

YES

3. What did Matthew invite Jesus to come to?



A meal at his house.

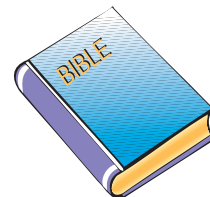


The temple

4. We can read the book of Matthew in the:



Newspaper



Bible

Lesson 10: Matthew

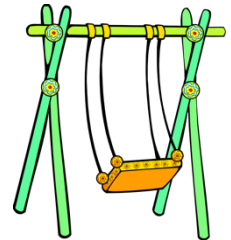
S is for sinner. Jesus came to save sinners.

Trace the letters.

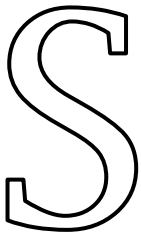
sinner

Matthew

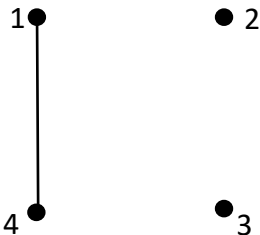
Circle the things that begin with the letter S.



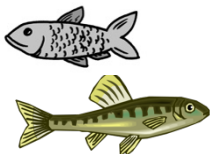
Color the capital S red.



Square starts with s. Connect the dots to make a square.



Circle what Matthew collected from people.

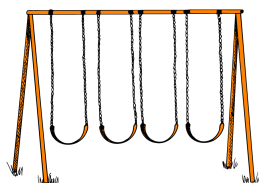


The first four books of the New Testament are the gospels. Matthew wrote one of the gospels. The gospels tell about Jesus' life on earth and His death and resurrection. The word gospel means good news.

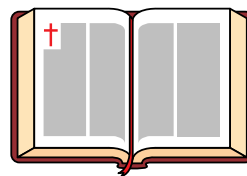
Circle the reason Matthew invited Jesus to his home.



to eat



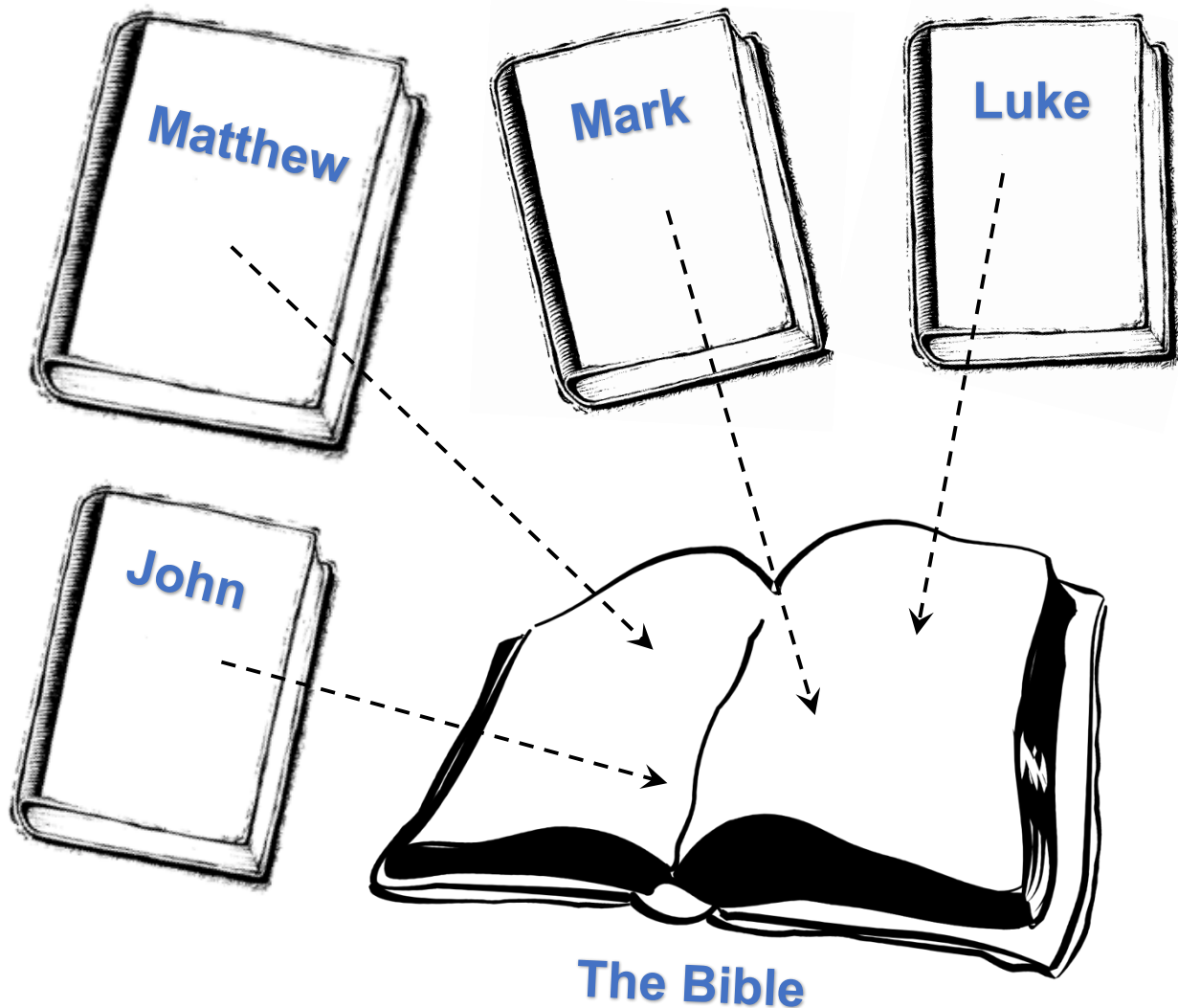
to play



gospel
means
good news

10. Matthew the Tax Collector

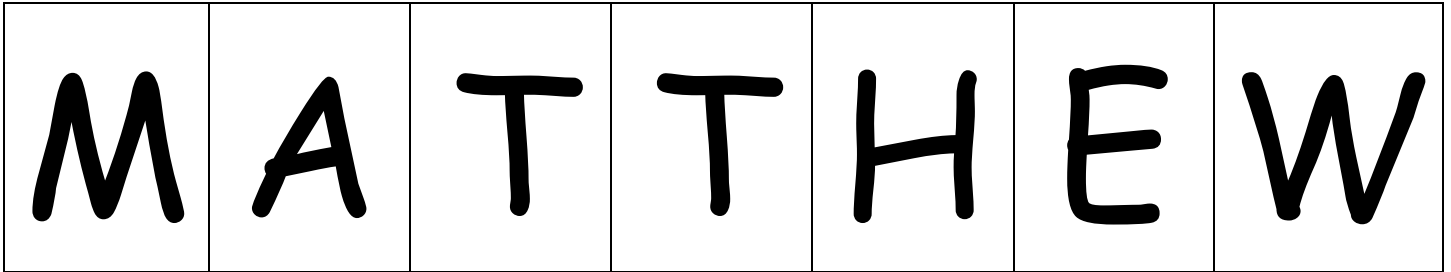
Two of the gospels were written by apostles. Color the two gospels written by apostles red. (Remember they did not have books in Bible times.)



The gospels tell us about
Jesus' life, death, and
resurrection.

10. Matthew the Tax Collector

Matthew wrote the first of the four gospels. Glue the letters to spell Matthew:



The other three gospels are:

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

MATTHEW
THE TAX
COLLECTOR

By Lisa Smith and
Barbara Hanna

Jesus chose 12 apostles to go with Him to teach about the coming kingdom, which is the church. Jesus wanted everyone to be saved. The men He called were not Jewish leaders. They were just regular workers. Some of them were fishermen.



Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him. Matthew went right away. He had probably seen Jesus do miracles and heard Him teaching.



Matthew had been collecting tax money from people when Jesus called him. Tax collectors were often looked down on. They worked for the Roman government. Many tax collectors cheated people and collected more tax money than they should have so they could keep a lot for themselves.



After Matthew was called to go with Jesus, he invited Jesus to his house for a meal. Matthew invited other tax collectors. The Jewish leaders thought it was terrible that Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors. Jesus told them He came to save sinners.



Matthew wrote one of the gospels. It is called Matthew. The four gospels tell us about the life of Jesus and the 12 apostles. God helped the men know what to write. We have these books in the New Testament of the Bible. They are:

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John



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Lesson Objectives:

Show how much Jesus influenced the apostles before He called them, so they were ready to go immediately.

Teach about how tax collectors were looked down on, but Jesus wanted them all to be saved. Matthew may or may not have been dishonest before he was called by Jesus. If he had cheated people, he was willing to give up his riches to follow Christ.

Preparing for the Lesson:

Get the flip chart ready to go if you plan to use it. It will last many years if you use cover stock or card stock. Many of those I made over 20 years ago are still in excellent condition. If you wish to use the more difficult lesson text (by Lisa Smith), print one per child to send home. Parents can go over the lesson with their children. You might still use some of the graphics to teach the lesson, or there may be some in the Teacher Work Room that you prefer.

If you plan to use the gluing activity, be sure to get it ready ahead of time. Talk about the gospels and that Matthew wrote one of them.

Teaching the Lesson:

If you are teaching very young children, you may want to pick out some of the review questions to ask them. Not all of them are covered in the flip chart.

What have you learned?

1. What was Matthew doing when Jesus called him to follow Him? (collecting tax)
2. Did Matthew come right away or wait? (right away)
3. What four apostles were fishermen? (Peter, Andrew, James and John) There could have been others, but we have not covered that in these lessons.
4. Did the fishermen come right away or wait when Jesus called them? (right away)
5. Why did Matthew invite Jesus to his house? (for a feast/meal and to meet his friends)
6. Who else did Matthew invite to the feast? (tax collectors and sinners)
7. Who was upset that Jesus was eating at Matthew's house? (Jewish leaders)
8. Why were the Jewish leaders upset? (they didn't think Jesus should eat with sinners)
9. Jesus said He came to save who? (sinners – the lost)
10. Who should we teach about Jesus and the church? (everyone)
11. How many of the books of the New Testament are called gospels? (four)
12. The gospel is also called the _____. (good news)
13. What other name was used by Matthew? (Levi)

Songs and Prayer:

By now the students should be learning most of the names of the apostles. Use the song that is on three pages and has the names set apart in larger text. It helped my 2s and 3s as they said the names. Sing the song together, but do not say the name of each apostle aloud until you see if the students can remember. If you have time, you could let them take turns naming the apostles.

During the prayer, you may want to thank God that He sent Jesus to save the sinners. The 2s and 3s probably need short phrases like, "Thank you for Jesus," "...and the Bible" "...and my parents."