

Parent @ Home Guide

October Week 2

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.

What You Need:

- No supplies needed, but kids will be doing a scavenger hunt through their homes today.

Activity:

What You Do:

- 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.
- Ask:
 - 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*)
 - Why did Jesus decide to eat with Matthew? (*Jesus was saying to everyone that Matthew and people like him are valuable*)
- Challenge kids to a "how I see myself" scavenger hunt.
- Ask them to think about the coolest thing about themselves; something they love about how God made them.
- Then tell the group they have one minute to go find an object that represents one cool thing about themselves.
- It could be a piece of art they've made, their music lesson book, a basketball or soccer ball, a stuffed animal, their favorite shoes ... anything that represents what they love about themselves.
- When kids return, let them each quickly show the group the object they found and give a brief description about why it represents something awesome about themselves.

What You Say:

"I loved learning more about each of you by doing this scavenger hunt! When we talk about how Jesus sees us, he doesn't focus on the wrong things we've done or the things we don't like about ourselves. It's almost like Jesus only sees the awesome things represented by our scavenger hunt today. He only sees the super cool stuff about us. Wouldn't it be cool if we could see ourselves that way?"

"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. That changed Matthew forever. **[Bottom Line] Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.**"

Close your group in prayer:

“God, thank You that You sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins so we could know and follow You. Thank You that You see all of us—even our mistakes and mess-ups—and You love us completely. Please teach us to see ourselves as You see us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”