

Bible Point

JESUS SHOWS US HOW TO BE A FRIEND.

Key Verse

JOHN 15:12 (NLT)

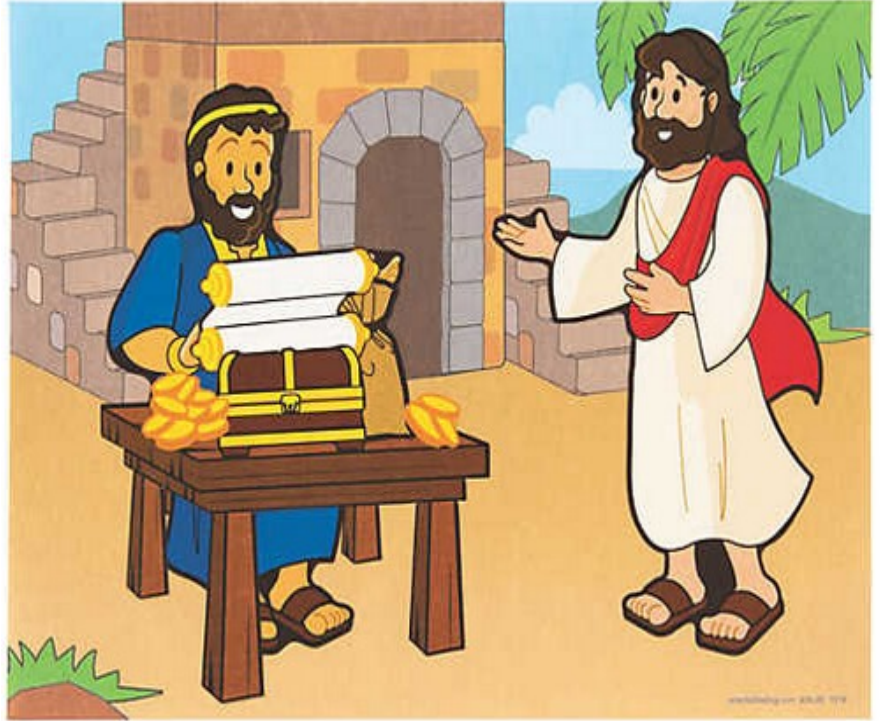
"This is My commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

Bible Story

JESUS CALLS MATTHEW

MATTHEW 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow Me and be My disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.



Later, Matthew invited Jesus and His disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?"

When Jesus heard this, He said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then He added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

Discussion

- What is the best way to make a GOOD first impression?
- Has anyone ever been wrong in their first impression of you? How did that make you feel?
- What do you think Jesus' first impression of Matthew was? How can you tell?
- How did Matthew show that others' first impression of him was wrong?

It can be hard to take the first steps in making a friend. Remember to ask Jesus to help you! Just a smile can start a friendship—then, as you get to know each other better, your friend will learn WHY you smiled...because Jesus is YOUR friend and wants to be THEIR friend too!

Challenges

Pages 3 -4 are activity pages to help reinforce the lesson and scripture - use these as you think about ways to show that you're following Jesus' example!

- Pick the kind of gift wrap (or create one) that you think shows YOUR first impression. For example, if you're into sports, maybe paper with soccer or basketballs on it. If you're always happy, maybe paper with balloons or smiley faces.
- Cut out a piece of this gift wrap that will fit over the box below.
- Tape your gift wrap just along the top of the box, so you can lift it up like a flap.
- In the box, write some things that people may not know about you just by looking at your gift wrap.



KEY VERSE

“Love each other in the same way I have love you.”
John 15:12



Today I learned that Jesus looks past first impressions. He’s willing to be friendly to someone and get to know the real person inside. I also learned how to make a good first impression on others so I can show them that I love Jesus! Here’s what I wish people knew about me:

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Jesus offers friendship even when others don’t. It might be hard to be nice to these people, but I’m going to give it a try:

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These are things I look for in a new friend:

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