

## MEMORY VERSE/BIG IDEA

**TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE/BIG IDEA:** Share the memory verse and talk about where it comes from (the Bible, the NEW Testament, the book of Luke, God said these words.) Discuss what the verse/big idea means.

**Verse (All Ages): (Jesus said) "I have come to invite sinners to change their hearts and lives!" Luke 5:32b**

### VERSE MOTIONS

**Jesus said-** make Jesus sign: tap tip of middle finger to open palm of other hand, repeat with opposite hand

**Invite-** make "come here" motion with both hands

**Hearts-** hold both hands over heart

**Lives-** two thumbs up

### PRAYER

Dear God,

We know you love us even though sometimes we do bad things. Thank you for still wanting us to be in your family and for inviting everyone else to be a part of your family if they want to. Please help us to love people more like you love them. We want to be more like Jesus because that pleases you, God.

Amen.

## BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ages 3-Kindergarten: read all with questions. Under age 3: read **highlighted only** and skip questions.

**1. One day, Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax office. The people did not like tax collectors like Levi. Tax collectors would take people's money to give it to the man in charge- the governor.** But some tax collectors did the wrong thing- they took extra money from the people so they could keep the money for themselves and get rich. The people did not like when the tax collectors took too much of their money just so that they could steal it for themselves.

**Review Question: Who did Jesus see sitting in the tax collector's office?** *(a man named Levi)*

**Review Question: Why did people not like the tax collectors?** *(tax collectors took their money to give to the governor, some of them stole extra money to keep for themselves)*

**2. But when Jesus saw Levi, he told him, "Follow me!" Levi got up and left everything behind so that he could follow Jesus. Then Levi made a big dinner feast for Jesus. The dinner was at Levi's house. At the table there were many tax collectors and other people, too. But the Pharisees and the men who taught the law began to complain to the followers of Jesus. They said, "Why do you eat with tax collectors? Nobody likes them. Why do you want to be with them? And why do you eat with 'sinners'?"**

**Review Question: Do you know what "sinners" are?** *(allow for answers)*

Sinners are people who do sins- bad things that God says not to do. But guess what? We all do bad things sometimes that God has said not to do, like lie or steal or cheat. So, all of us are sinners. But Jesus loves sinners and will forgive us for doing wrong things if we ask him to forgive us.

**3. When the Pharisees asked why Jesus ate dinner with tax collectors and sinners, they were trying to be mean. They wanted Jesus to stay away from those people and not talk to them or be nice to them. But Jesus said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people need a doctor. I have not come here to invite good people. I have come to invite sinners to change their hearts and lives!" What Jesus meant was, when people sin and do wrong things, it's kind of like their hearts are sick. Their hearts are not working the right way to love people and love God like they should. But Jesus wanted to tell those people all about God and show them how to love God and love other people by following Jesus. Jesus is like a good doctor who heals your heart to make it work right to love God and love people.**

**Review Question: Were the Pharisees happy that Jesus was eating dinner with the tax collectors like Levi?** *(no- they did not want Jesus to be nice to the tax collectors)*

## BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS CONTINUED

**Review Question: What did Jesus say about why he ate dinner with the tax collectors?** *(he wanted to help people with sick hearts to hear about God, wanted to help their hearts work like they should to love people and love God)*

**4. Jesus wants to help all people know about God, even people who do bad things. Those people need to hear about God the most! We should also help people who do wrong things by telling them about Jesus.** We should not just stay away from people with sick hearts who do sins. Our job is to help them

learn about Jesus so that He can help their hearts get better. Do you tell everyone about Jesus? **Everyone needs to hear about Him!**

**Review Question: Does Jesus only want good, nice people to hear about God?** *(No! Jesus wants everyone to hear about God- especially people who do wrong things, because they need to learn about God's love the most. And guess what? ALL of us do wrong things sometimes- so every one of us needs Jesus' help!)*

## ACTIVITY

### “WHO WOULD YOU CALL?”

Place the career cards on the table. Ask children a question like, “Who would I call if I was sick?” or “Who would I call if I saw a fire?” If children are old enough, allow them to ask the questions also. Speak about how Jesus is the only one who can help us with our sin problem.

Who would you call if ...?



## COLORING PAGES

## SONG

### “TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS”

*(SING TO THE TUNE OF “JESUS LOVES ME”)*

Teach God’s love to everyone.  
Tell of Jesus, His only Son.  
Spread His love so they will know,  
For the Bible tells us so.

Yes, Jesus loves them  
Yes, Jesus loves them  
Yes, Jesus loves them  
God wants everyone.