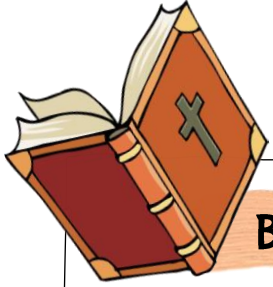


# Together @ Home

November 14, 2021



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

## Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus calling his disciple, Levi (or Matthew).

You can find the story in your Bible in:

**Mark 2:13-22**

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

**The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:**

Psalms 103

## A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for your mercy--the undeserved kindness--that you offer us, and that you want to be the friend of everyone--even those who have chosen to do wrong.

Thank you that we are your children whom you love. We pray for all who don't yet know you, that they would come into your family.

Help us to be willing to go to them and to tell them about you, show them your love, and welcome them into your family.

Amen

## Discussion

### Questions for adults to ask children

*Why did most people not like Levi?*

People in Jesus' day were considered to be traitors because they worked for the Romans who had taken over Israel. Also, tax collectors usually collected more money than they were supposed to take and became very rich. As a result, they were hated.

*When Jesus called Levi to follow him, what did Levi do?*  
Matthew chose to answer Jesus' call to follow. He held a feast and invited his friends--people who were usually excluded/left out because they were considered to be "bad"--and Jesus' ate with them!

*What can we learn from this story?*

God loves all people and invites everyone to be a part of His family. As Jesus' followers, we are called to follow His example by being kind to others and welcome them into God's family, too.

### Questions for children to ask adults

*Have you ever felt left out or excluded?*

*Have you ever been unexpectedly welcomed by someone?*

## Family Activity 1

### Go and... Count People!

As a tax collector, Matthew was good at counting. Go for a walk with your family and see who can count the most people you see. You could also try marching like a Roman soldier guarding the taxes Matthew collected.





## A verse to remember

**Romans 15:7**

**Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.**

While Jesus lived on earth, He always welcomed anyone into His presence! With Jesus as our example, may we also welcome others with an attitude of kindness and compassion.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or write it on a piece of paper and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

## Family Activity 2

*You will need: Paper, pens, colored pencils, markers, or crayons, scissors, glue, and any craft materials you would like to use.*

Every family is different, but there's always an element of waiting for a new child. Imagine how God our Father feels as he waits to welcome into His family all those around the world who do not know him as their Father yet--and how exciting it is when people choose to follow Jesus!

Why not create your own family portrait? Get each member of the family to draw another family member. When you have all finished your pictures, cut around the people and then overlap them and stick them onto another piece of paper to make a family portrait.



## Taste Challenge

*You will need: a range of different foods, blindfolds.*

Give everybody a blind fold (a scarf will work) and pass them samples of the different foods to taste. Can they figure out what they are eating?



## The Iona Invitation

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ.

So come to this table,

You have much faith and you who would like to have more;  
You who have been here often, and you who have not been  
for a long time or ever before;

You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed;

Come--not because the Church invites you--

It is Christ who invites you to meet Him here.

# Jesus Welcomed Sinners and Tax Collectors

Mark 2: 13-17



# The Calling of Levi

Jesus was walking by the lake.

A large crowd came, and He began to teach.  
He saw Levi sitting at the tax collector's booth.



Use the code to find what happened.

① = D	②⑤ = H	⑩ = M
⑤ = E	① = I	②⑤ = O
⑩ = F	⑤ = L	⑤⑩ = W

Jesus said to Levi,

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

⑩      ②⑤      ⑤      ⑤      ②⑤      ⑤⑩      ⑩      ⑤

Levi got up and

⑩      ②⑤      ⑤      ⑤      ②⑤      ⑤⑩      ⑤      ①

②⑤      ①      ⑩