**Jesus: Our Best Friend**

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**Come and discover the BEST reason to love Jesus, over these next 7 lessons.**

**Lesson #1. Being Accepted**

When you look for a friend, do you choose:

1. Some-one who is friendly to you
2. Some-one who has lots of friends already
3. Some-one who has no friends at all

Who is the person most disliked in your class?

What did they do to deserve this?

Would you go and be a friend to this person?

When Jesus came to earth, he gathered a group of followers. Here is the story of one man, Matthew. He was a tax collector, and **EVERYONE HATED** tax collectors.

**1. READ**

**Jesus Chooses Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)**

**9**When Jesus was leaving, he saw a man named Matthew. Matthew was sitting in the tax office. Jesus said to him, “Follow me.” And Matthew stood up and followed Jesus.

**10**Jesus had dinner at Matthew’s house. Many tax collectors and “sinners” came and ate with Jesus and his followers. **11**The Pharisees saw this and asked Jesus’ followers, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”

**12**Jesus heard the Pharisees ask this. So he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. Only the sick need a doctor. **13**Go and learn what this means: ‘I want faithful love more than I want animal sacrifices.’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%209&version=ICB#fen-ICB-23283b)] I did not come to invite good people. I came to invite sinners.”

**2. WATCH**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgy6TWuUkK0>

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**3. CHAT**

Matthew knew he was a sinner and hated by everyone. Can you imagine how he would have felt when Jesus invited Matthew to follow him? He was so happy, he invited Jesus to dinner at his home, and invited other tax collectors to meet come and meet his new friend, Jesus! He even left his old job and followed Jesus for the rest of his life.

Why was Jesus a great friend to Matthew?

Why can Jesus be your special friend?

Like Matthew, will you tell your friends about your special friend, Jesus?

**Key Lesson:** Jesus has a heart for the lonely and for those who are excluded. He calls them and says “come to me”.

Jesus knew that Matthew was a sinner (we all are!), but Jesus also knew that Matthew needed God (we all do!).

Jesus accepts us as we are. Jesus loves us and wants us to be a part of His family.

Think about who you can share this good news about Jesus with this week.

**Activity:** Colour the memory verse, and thank Jesus for being a great friend to everyone, especially those who have no friends.

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