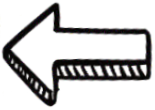




Question: If you were having a party, who's the first person you'd want to invite—and why?



Connect: When something good happens, we naturally want to share it, whether it's a new game, a funny video, or a great place to eat. In Matthew 9, Matthew's first response to meeting Jesus wasn't a speech or a plan; he simply invited others to come close and see Jesus for themselves. An ordinary meal became a moment where more people could meet the One who changed his life.



BIBLE READING MATTHEW 9:9-17

SETTING THE SCENE

Matthew worked as a tax collector for Rome, taking money from his own people. Tax collectors were seen as traitors and often took more than required, which made them disliked and pushed outside religious life. When Jesus chose Matthew as a disciple, it challenged what people expected from a teacher or rabbi. Afterwards, Matthew held a meal and invited other people like him (outsiders and sinners) to meet Jesus. The religious leaders were upset that Jesus welcomed people they believed didn't belong with God. This moment begins a larger conflict over who Jesus came for and what kind of people He calls to follow Him.



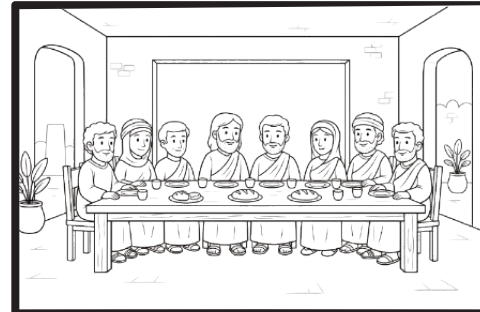
"Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax booth."

Matthew 9:9a



"Jesus said, 'Follow Me.' Matthew got up and followed Him."

Matthew 9:9b



"Later, as Jesus was dining at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples..." Matthew 9:10



"The Pharisees asked, 'Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'"

Matthew 9:11



"Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.'"

Matthew 9:12



But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:13

The Calling of Matthew



"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13 (NIV)

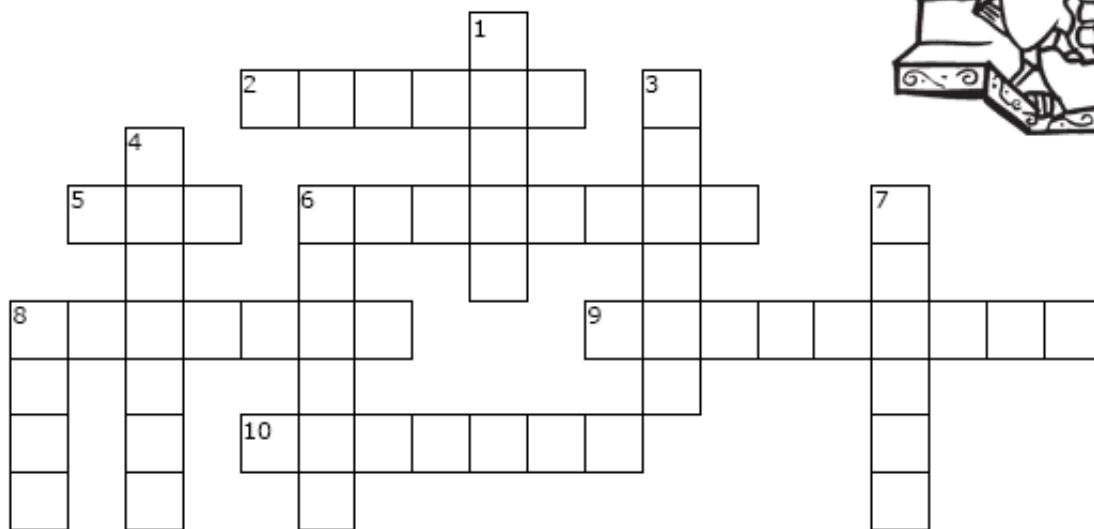
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. The first book of the New Testament
A. Mark B. Luke C. Matthew D. John
- ___ 2. The opposite of standing
A. flying B. walking C. climbing D. sitting
- ___ 3. Strong and free from illness and disease
A. healthy B. tired C. sick D. fat
- ___ 4. One of the twelve chosen to follow Jesus
A. healthy B. disciple C. follow D. doctor
- ___ 5. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
A. prophet B. sinner C. doctor D. tax collector
- ___ 6. To walk behind someone
A. lead B. sitting C. follow D. sinner
- ___ 7. The main meal of the day
A. snack B. healthy C. disciple D. dinner
- ___ 8. One who refuses to obey God's laws
A. disciple B. sinner C. tax collector D. doctor
- ___ 9. To be affected with disease or ill health
A. sick B. hungry C. righteous D. healthy
- ___ 10. An amount of money paid to the government
A. tax B. wages C. dues D. salary

The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13b (NIV)

Based on Genesis Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. One who refuses to obey God's laws
5. An amount of money paid to the government
6. One of the twelve chosen to follow Jesus
8. The opposite of standing
9. A person who accumulates items (stamps, for example)
10. Strong and free from illness and disease

DOWN

1. Kindness and forgiveness shown toward someone
3. To walk behind someone
4. The first book of the New Testament
6. The main meal of the day
7. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
8. To be affected with disease or ill health

DISCIPLE
SICK
SITTING

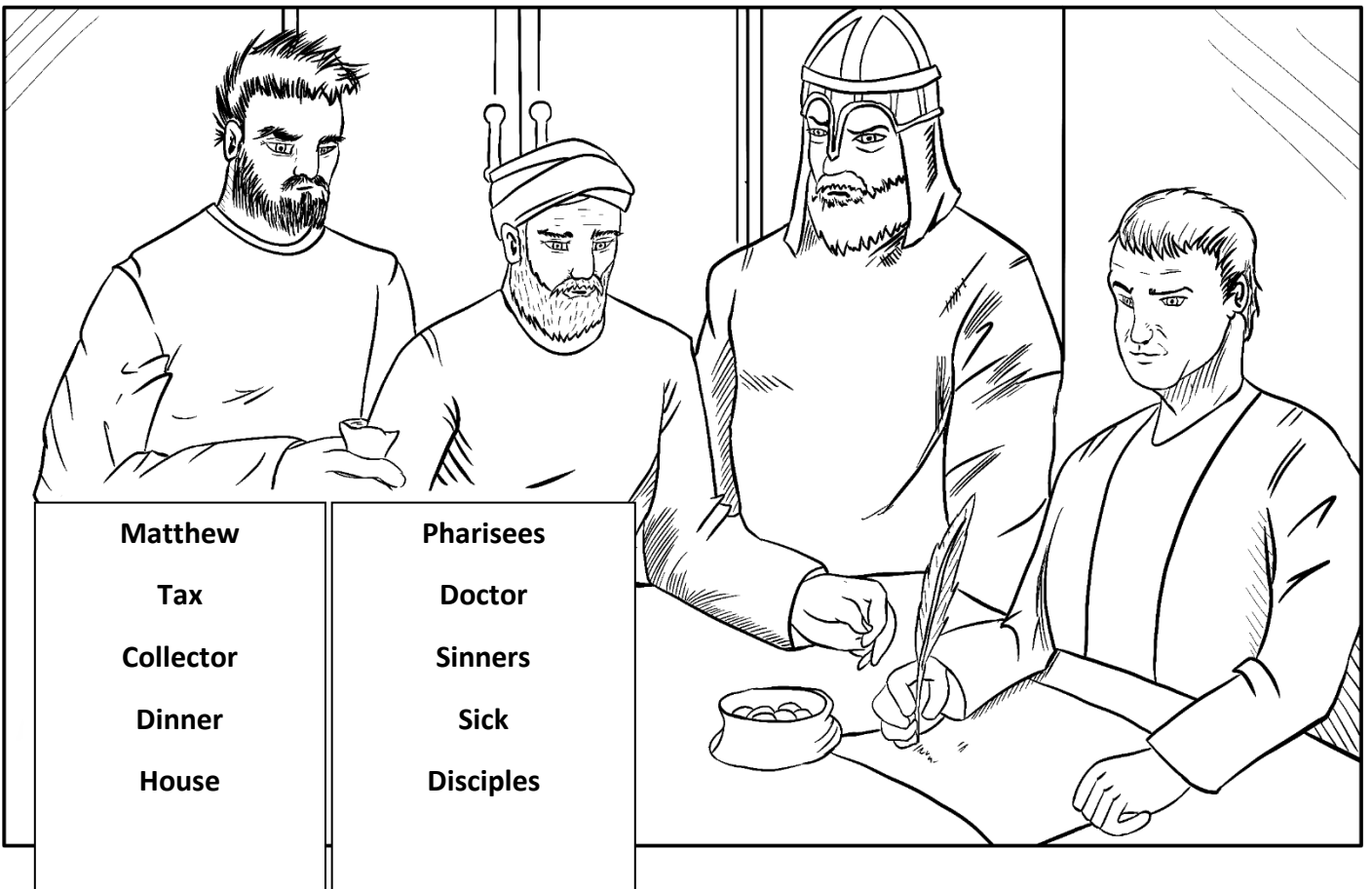
DINNER
MERCY
MATTHEW

DOCTOR
SINNER
HEALTHY

COLLECTOR
FOLLOW
TAX

WORD SEARCH

S Z Q S R E N N I S N M C Z W
 E Q T B B P Q M V Z L L H D H
 E D J V Z X N L X Q L F O W O
 S F I Q R Q K V L T F C T E U
 I L B N C O L L E C T O R H S
 R Q W K N K C D K O L J X T E
 A N T R C E L K R T Z A F T M
 H D J Z P I R T J K T T L A D
 P Q R Z D I S C I P L E S M F
 R Z N D M J J L N D G Q L P J



Matthew

Tax

Collector

Dinner

House

Pharisees

Doctor

Sinners

Sick

Disciples



TRUE OR FALSE

Cross out all the false statements

Jesus called Matthew while he was at work.

Matthew took weeks to decide whether to follow Jesus.

Jesus ate with people religious leaders avoided.

Jesus said healthy people need a doctor.

God cares more about rule-keeping than mercy.

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE MEMORY VERSE

Matthew got up and followed Him.

Matthew 9:9

_____ got up and followed Him.



THIS WEEK'S ACTIONS

Try one each day. You don't need to be perfect.

INVITE SOMEONE

Think of one person you could include or spend time with the way Matthew invited people to meet Jesus.



WHO SHAPES WHO?

At the end of one day, think about if you are helping your friends see Jesus or if they are pulling you away from Him.



SEE LIKE JESUS

When you notice someone being ignored or misjudged, pause and pray: "Jesus, help me see what You see."



MERCY MOMENT

Find one chance this week to show mercy instead of reacting quickly—at home, school, or online.



READ AGAIN

Read Matthew 9:9-13 once this week and circle one thing Jesus did that surprised you.



