

Chattabox
session
Sunday 26th
April 2020.

Being
Accepted
Matthew
9:9-13

Welcome

Hi guys,

Even though we can't meet at church like we normally do, we can still have Chatabox!

There are some things here for you to do, and we would love you to share them with us after. Next week we'll show you what everyone else has done too.

To share what you've been getting up to, please email children@newburybaptistchurch.org



Last Week:

Look at the footprints from one family last week - can you remember what story they tell?

That's right, the story of Jesus walking with his friends to Emmaus and explaining all the Bible to them.



Starting Out

Today we're at the beginning of a new series of stories. These are all about Jesus and some of his friends.

Firstly there's a story about a man that nobody liked.

Start by thinking about what makes you like (or not like) someone.

What is a tax collector?



Do you know what tax is?

It's money the government takes from everyone to pay for things; like the NHS or the people who take the rubbish away. Why not ask your grown ups if they know something else their tax goes to pay?

In Bible times, the tax collectors got the money for the government but sometimes they took more than they should, and kept the extra!

Was that a good thing to do? How do you think the people felt about the tax collectors?

Tax Collector Game

You need:

A pile of money (you could use coins, buttons, or even sweets!)

Two buckets (or bowls)

Two players

Player 1 is a tax collector

Player 2 is a tax payer

How does it feel to be the tax collector? Or the tax payer?

The tax payer has the pile of money...until the tax collector comes.

It's the tax collector's job to say how much of the pile they have to pay as tax.

How much will you choose? Are you going to take extra to keep or are you going to be kind?

Take it in turns to be the collector or the payer.

Signs

Can you draw as many signs as you can create that **welcome** someone?

Now draw as many as you can create to **keep someone out**

If there are two of you, why not make it a challenge, one draw the welcome signs and one the keep out signs. Who can get the most in 5 minutes?



Signs

If you saw the welcome signs, how would you feel?

If you saw the keep out signs, how would you feel?

It's not nice to feel like you are not wanted. Today's story is about someone like that - someone who felt like nobody wanted them.



Story Time - who is who

For today's story there are some words you need to know that describe the people in the story.

Tax Collector (you know this one!) someone who takes taxes. Hated by everyone as they sometimes took too much money.

Sinners anyone who does something wrong

Pharisees there were the keepers of the law in Jesus' time. They knew all the rules, and even made up extra rules for people to follow. They thought you shouldn't talk to anyone who broke the rules.

Story Time

Today we're going to read the story in the Bible and then we're going to do a little play to think about how each person in the story might have felt.

The story is Matthew Chapter 9 verses 9 to 13.

If you want, you can watch a video of the story instead of reading it. The video is on youtube [here](#)



Story Time

9 When Jesus was leaving, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in the tax collector's booth. Jesus said to him, "Follow me," and he stood up and followed Jesus.

10 As Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with Jesus and his followers. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked Jesus' followers, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 When Jesus heard them, he said, "It is not the healthy people who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: 'I want kindness more than I want animal sacrifices.' [b] I did not come to invite good people but to invite sinners."

Story Time - your turn

We're going to imagine we're at the meal at Matthew's house. So to start with you'll need:

A table & chairs

Plates & cups

Some Tax collectors and sinners

Some Pharisees

Jesus

For the people, you could use people in your house, or maybe get some help from any toys you have (send us a picture of your banquet to share next week)

Story Time - your turn

Start your meal together.

To start with you are in the group of tax collectors and sinners.

How do you feel about Jesus telling Matthew to follow him?

How do you feel about having the Pharisees and Jesus at the meal?

What do you think of what Jesus said to the Pharisees?

Story Time - your turn

Start your meal together.

Now you are one of the Pharisees

How do you feel about Jesus telling Matthew to follow him?

How do you feel about having to eat with all these tax collectors and sinners?

What do you think about Jesus saying you need to learn about kindness instead of following the rules?

What next?

Jesus loves everyone, it doesn't matter to Him if someone is liked or not liked by other people.

Matthew learned that and followed Jesus, becoming one of his closest friends. He had the meal to invite all the people like him to come and meet Jesus as well.

Do you know that Jesus loves you?

He accepts whoever you are, it doesn't matter if you have lots of friends or not many friends, you are still accepted by Jesus and he wants to be your friend.

What next?

In this story, the tax collectors and sinners start out by being the baddies, but at the meal Jesus shows us that really the Pharisees were the baddies - because they made up too many rules for people and forgot to be kind.

We are like the sinners, we all gets things wrong, so it's good to know that Jesus doesn't worry about rules so long as we try our best and ask him to forgive us.

Listen (and sing along) to [this song](#) which talks about how loved we are.

Let's pray

Dear Jesus

Thank you that you Love me as me, that I am special and accepted by you.

Please help me accept others that are different.

Amen

First, let's say this prayer together then you pray for something you want to say to God.

Can you think of someone that is different? How have you treated them before? Do you need to ask God to help you change in future to be more like Jesus?

Remember God will always listen to you when you pray.

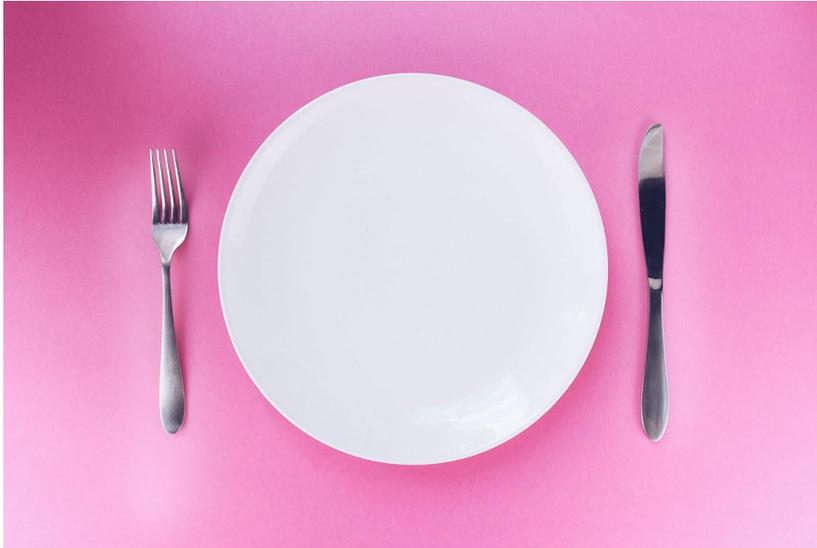
Tax Collector Rap

How fast can you do the tax collector rap?

I'm so amazed, astonished,
and I'm feeling ten foot tall!
'Cos Jesus came from heaving,
bringing love and care to all,
no matter who we are
and never mind what we have done!
I'm so amazed, astonished,
that I'm loved by God's own Son!



What's for dinner



What do you think Jesus, Matthew and the others ate for their meal?

Draw a picture of their meal.

You could get a grown up to help you research what kinds of things they ate in Jesus' time....or you could go with your favourite meal to eat :)

Send in your picture to share next week.

Are you a disciple?

Matthew was picked by Jesus to be one of his 12 closest friends. They went with him all over the place and we call them his disciples.

Disciples is a word that means follower.

Can you name all 12 disciples without looking them up? Can any of your grown ups?

Once you've made your guesses, look up the answers in Matthew Chapter 10 verses 2 to 4.

Play a game of follow the disciple (like simon says)

The person who named the most disciples gets to be the disciple first!



How many did you get right?

Next Week

I hope you enjoyed Chattabox today!

Don't forget that God loves it when we celebrate and dedicate things to him.

Remember to send in pictures of what you've been getting up to or if you want to ask any questions about today's story you can email children@newburybaptistchurch.org

We'll be back next week!



From the Chattabox team :)