

The King's Friends

Mark 2: 13–17

This week, you will need...

- Pictures of characters: villains and not villains...
- A teddy
- A toy medical kit – bandages, medicine spoon, stethoscope etc. (or pictures of the items)
- A crown (or make one out of paper)
- A hole punch
- Paper – yellow, gold, silver
- Colouring pens
- A whiteboard (or chalkboard)

What's in the Box?

See if you can guess what we are doing today from these pictures...



Photos: Lee Myungseong (unsplash.com); Sally Jermain, Gerd Altmann (pixabay.com)

What's happening today?

Last week, we learnt about how Jesus has the power to fix humankind's biggest problem – the problem of sin! This week, we will see that Jesus came to call those people who know they are not good enough to follow him.

Let's get started

Print (or download to your device) ten pictures depicting different characters.

- Choose five villains, or characters that you wouldn't normally invite to a party (e.g. Mr Greedy).
- For the other five, choose people who you would love to spend time with.

Imagine you are planning a day of fun and you are allowed to take three people with you. Who would you choose to invite? Have a think about your choices and why you chose some and not others.

Bible Time

In today's true story from the Bible, Jesus chooses to have dinner with a person that no-one expected him to invite. You can read the story [here on BibleGateway.com](https://www.biblegateway.com).

The Pharisees – religious leaders and teachers – were greatly shocked at the kind of people Jesus was having dinner with! Spend some time setting the scene. We tend to think of the Pharisees as the bad guys in the Gospels but in Jewish society they were the good guys – they were seen as morally respectable.

Split your household into two groups (or make two groups of toys) – the **Pharisees** and the **Tax Collectors**. Sit both groups apart and spend some time describing what they were like.

Read (or ask someone to read) the passage aloud and ask the following questions as you go:

- Which group would make better friends? Why?
- Who would you invite to dinner? Why?
- Why were the Pharisees so shocked to see Jesus there?
- How would they expect God's special King to behave?

Then summarise the story using the following points:

- We can't be friends with God because of sin.
- The Pharisees didn't think they were sinners (most people don't!).
- Levi and his friends knew they needed Jesus' help.
- Jesus came to forgive us – even the worst of us.
- Only Jesus has the power to forgive our sin and make friends with God – this is why he came.
- Forgiven people obey and follow Jesus as their King.

Explore

These questions are split by age groups – although you might want to answer them all!

Climbers Who did Jesus have dinner with?

Explorers Which people were shocked by this?

Pathfinders What kind of people did Jesus come to call?

Everyone What difference does it make to you that Jesus forgives you?

Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 4.

Reflection

You may want to think about these questions now and throughout the week...

The Pharisees completely missed the point about Jesus' mission. They thought that because *they* kept all the laws, they were like healthy people who didn't need a doctor to make them better. But Jesus didn't come to look for people who *thought* they were okay. He came to help the sinners, the people who knew they needed help – the way sick people want to see a doctor and be cured. Remember – a doctor can only help people who know that they are not well and are prepared to seek help: in the same way, Jesus can only help people who are prepared to admit that they are in the wrong and need forgiveness. Jesus' forgiveness is free and complete – it is all we need!

Today's passage has helped me see some:

- Sin** I need to turn from
- Promises** I can trust in
- Examples** I can follow
- Commands** I need to obey
- Surprises** – things that surprised me or things I didn't understand

- Do you ever feel like you are 'healthy' and doing okay on your own?
- Do you ever think someone could ever too 'sick' for Jesus? (Good news – the answer is no!)
- Knowing this, does it change how you feel about people who might be 'worse' sinners than you? Can there really be worse sinners in God's eyes?
- How can you help people who don't know Jesus yet?

Prayer

On a chalkboard (or whiteboard or piece of paper), write or draw sins that people struggle with. Take suggestions from everyone, if they're happy to share. If not, ask each person to write or draw something on a piece of paper only they can see.

Remember that we need to realise our need so that we can ask Jesus to help us.

Take it in turns to choose a sin that you struggle with the most and pray silently asking God to help you with that problem. Say "amen" and then wipe away or cross out the sin.

Ask one person to thank God that no-one, no matter how corrupt or wicked, is beyond God's grace and the forgiveness that Jesus offers. Thank God that we can have a fresh start through Jesus, just like Levi the Tax Collector!

Games

Doctor, Doctor

Write lots of different ailments on pieces of paper – e.g. a sore throat, a broken leg. Also add some other sin problems like being rude and not sharing. Put all the pieces of paper in a bowl.

Find some toy medical items such as a medicine spoon, bandages, plasters etc. Also use or make a crown to represent Jesus (as he is the solution to all the sin problems)!

Take it in turns to pick an ailment from the bowl, read the problem and choose the best way to fix the problem (you could use a teddy to model the solutions).

Every time there is a sin problem, ask which of the medical items you should use to fix the problem. Remember the only one who can fix sin problems is King Jesus!

Activities

There is a colouring sheet on page 5.

With a hole punch, punch some holes in yellow, silver and gold paper (or colour some plain paper in those colours) to make teeny tiny coins. Then glue the coins in piles all over the table as the money he was collecting!

Why not try drawing your own picture or comic strip telling the story?

Songs

During your prayer time (or before bedtime), try listening to these songs as a way to reflect and spend time with God.

Consider The Stars Keith & Kristyn Getty

Have You Heard Sovereign Grace Music

Hush-A-By (Come Unto Me And Rest)

Keith & Kristyn Getty

Have a look at the **Church at Home playlist** on the St. Mary's, Wootton YouTube channel. See if you can make up some actions, or learn some Makaton or British Sign Language words to worship along with your family!

Mini Challenges

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If you had dinner with Jesus, what do you think you would both like to eat?
Fill the plate with your great meal!



What is the **fewest number of coins** that you would need if you wanted to have **exactly these amounts?**

for example

= 87p

= 12p

= £1.11

= £2.46

= 99p

= £1.36

= 16p



Photos: Michal Zacharzewski (freemages.com); Asafta (dreamstime.com)

The King's Friends

The true story can be found in Mark 2:13-17

Discover

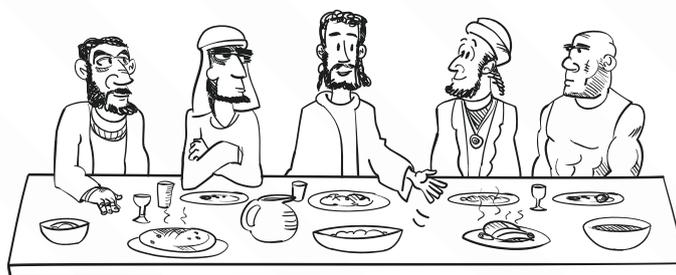


What job did Levi have before he met Jesus? (2:14-15) _____

What did he do when Jesus called him? (2:14) _____

When Jesus went to Levi's house who did he eat with? (2:15)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Think? Spot

Why were the Pharisees so unhappy about Jesus spending time with these people?

Who might they have expected Jesus to eat with? Why?

Who did Jesus say that he had come to call? (2:17)

Complete the sentence below

"It is not the _____ who need a _____, but the _____. I have not come to call the _____, but _____."

DISCUSS

Who are the 'sick'/'sinners' in this passage?

How do the 'sick' respond to Jesus? (Look at what Levi did in 2:14!)

Are there people you sometimes think are 'too bad' for Jesus to save?

Who could you choose to spend more time with just as Jesus did?

Who are the 'healthy'/'righteous'? In what way do the Pharisees think they are 'righteous'? How do they respond to Jesus?

Think about why you choose to do what is right.

How might you sometimes have the same attitude as the Pharisees?

What are you trusting to make you right with God?

The King of God's Kingdom (Part 1) – Week 6
Activity A

Jesus called Levi who was a cheating tax collector to follow him.



The religious leaders were surprised that Jesus would be friends with a bad man like Levi.

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