

Who Needs a Doctor?

Theme

Jesus went to those who needed him.

Object

A stethoscope

Scripture

But when He heard this, He said, "Those who are well don't need a doctor, but the sick do. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." Matthew 9:12-13 (NIV)

Children's Sermon: Who Needs a Doctor? (Matthew 9:12-13)

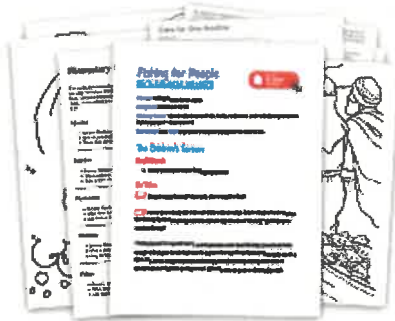
I'm sure that all of you have seen one of these before. Can anyone tell me what this is? (Pause for response.) That's right, it's a stethoscope! Who uses a stethoscope? (Pause for response.) Oftentimes when we're sick or not feeling well, we go to the doctor's office to get checked out. They might use a stethoscope like this one, or they might write you a prescription for some medication.

There was a time when instead of going to the doctor when you were sick, the doctor would come to you instead. The doctor would carry a little black bag filled with medical supplies and go to the homes of those who were sick.

That's what Jesus did when He was here on earth. He went to where the people were—especially people who were hurting or had problems in their life. One of the people that Jesus went out and ministered to was a tax collector by the name of Matthew. Tax collectors were hated in Jesus' day because they were often greedy and dishonest.

Jesus changed Matthew's life and he became one of Jesus' disciples. Here's what happened.

Who Needs a Doctor?



Download the full **Who Needs a Doctor?** lesson with all handouts, activities, videos, and more.

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One day Jesus went to Matthew's home to eat dinner with him. Many of Matthew's old friends came there to listen to Jesus teach. The religious leaders of the day were very displeased that Jesus was even talking to such people, much less eating with them!

They asked His disciples, "Why does your master eat with these sinners?"

Jesus heard them and answered, "It isn't those that are healthy that need a doctor, it is those that are sick. I did not come to call the righteous. I came to call sinners to repentance." Just like our doctors once did, Jesus went to the homes of the people who needed Him and He touched them and made them whole.

Who is someone who might need a doctor? (Pause for response.) The sick need a doctor. Is there anyone here who has never been sick? Of course not, so we all need a doctor! Who needs Jesus? (Pause for response.) Everyone does! Is there anyone here who has never sinned? No way! The Bible tells us that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That means we all need Jesus. We sometimes sit in our churches and wait for people to come to us so we can tell them about Jesus and His love. Instead, we need to be doing what Jesus did. We should be going where the people are and taking the good news of Jesus to them.

Dear Jesus, help us to be willing to go to those who need You and tell them of Your love. Amen.

Sermon Title: "Who Needs a Doctor"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 9:9-13

SICK KIDS:

Have children get into teams of 2. One child of each team will lay down and pretend they're sick. The other child will try to quote today's Bible verse or parts of it and then help the "sick child" to get up. Then switch parts and let other child be the sick one. Discuss who needs a doctor and who needs Jesus!

BAND AID RELAY:

Divide into 2 teams. Let children run a relay race - each one has to run to the "bandaid line" and get their bandaid and open it up and place it on their next team member, who will then run to the "bandaid line" and get another bandaid and come back to the team line and place it on the next team member. Continue until everyone has a bandaid, including the first runner. Tell children our lesson today is about who needs a doctor and who needs Jesus, too! (Dollar stores have inexpensive bandages).

FIRST AID GAME TRAY:

Option 1: Place many medical firstaid items on a tray and pass around for a few minutes. Then take the tray away and ask children to write or draw pictures of all the things that they can remember being on the tray.

Have discussion about Jesus coming to heal the SICK and how silly it would be to use first aid items if someone was sick or hurting. Option 2: Children can take PICTURES of medical supplies off a tray and glue onto a poster and title it with THE SICK NEED A DOCTOR AND SINNERS NEED JESUS!

SICK STICK MAN:

Let children stick a small amount of a molding clay round ball at the top of a craft stick and decorate that clay ball to look like a head (yarn for hair, mini choc chips or M&M's for eyes, etc). Give each child a bandaid to wrap around their craft stick. If you use popsicle sticks, they will be wider for the stick man and bandaid. This can be stuck into a small amount of clay so the "sick stick man" can stand! Let children write Matthew 9:12-13 on the back of the stick, or they can write, "Jesus went to those who needed Him."

FIRST AID SUPPLIES:

Blindfold children and have them reach into a bag of first aid supplies and hand that item to someone else who is blindfolded and see if they can describe and guess what the item is. Let children know that we'll be talking about who needs a doctor and who needs Jesus!

SIDEWALK CHALK SICK MAN:

Let children trace each other on the sidewalk and then each child can draw a bandaid or cast on arm or leg, etc on their tracing. Discussion about our Bible lesson today and being willing to go to those in NEED, to share Jesus' love.

PIN THE BANDAID ON SICK CHILD:

Let children take turns being blindfolded and trying to stick a bandaid on another child in the room. Have all other children stand around the room very quietly so the blindfolded child won't know who they are putting the bandaid on. When they DO find a child and stick that bandaid on, let the children try to say today's Bible verse with the teacher's help, just leaving out a word here and there for the children to fill in the correct word.

TELL OF JESUS' LOVE GAME:

Teacher can have several pictures of doors on various walls in room or hallway. (Next to each door can be a little bowl of a small candy). Let children go by two's to all the doors. After pretending to knock on a door, each team of 2 will say, "JESUS CAME TO TAKE OUR SINS AWAY", or GOD LOVES YOU, etc. Then let children take a small candy and continue on to the next door and continue until all doors have been knocked on or as time allows. Let children know that Jesus WANTS us to go to all people to tell them about JESUS' love for them.

"WE NEED JESUS" POSTER:

Give the class a very large poster board to decorate with WE NEED JESUS, or SINNERS NEED JESUS, etc. All children can then color and add their own names and a small picture of themselves on that poster for the classroom wall.

BUBBLES FUN:

Let children each blow many bubbles outside and watch the breeze blow them around. (This can also be done INSIDE if there is a fan available to blow the bubbles around). Children can be told that all those bubbles represent all the SICK and NEEDY people who need our JESUS. Let children sit down outside and talk about our Bible story today and how MANY people need us to tell them about JESUS and HIS LOVE!

BANDAGE ART:

Let each child draw a large bandage or glue a large bandage onto their construction paper. Then decorate their paper with our Bible verses today and also with the words, JESUS CAME TO HEAL THE SICK, or TELL EVERYONE ABOUT JESUS' LOVE, or WE ALL NEED JESUS TO HEAL US AS SINNERS, etc.

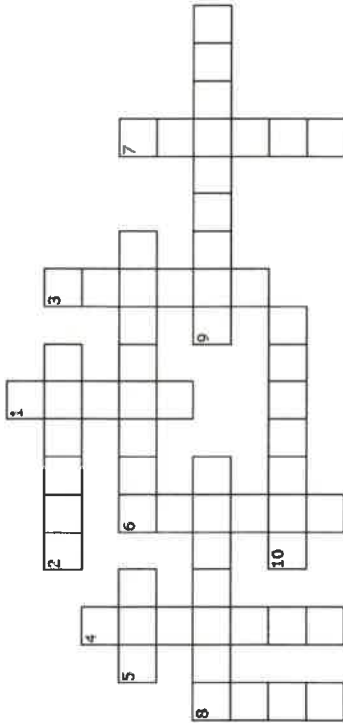
Song: "Jesus Heals the Broken-Hearted" by Herbert G. Tovey

[Words and music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 piano accompaniment](#) - Right click and save to your computer.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

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

DOWN

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

DISCIPLE	DINNER	DOCTOR	COLLECTOR
SICK	MERCY	SINNER	FOLLOW
SITTING	MATTHEW	HEALTHY	TAX



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Who Needs a Doctor?

Matthew 9:12-13

Word Search

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

DISCIPLES	MATTHEW	DOCTOR	COLLECTORS
SACRIFICE	DINNER	HEALTHY	TEACHER
MERCY	SITTING	BOOTH	SINNERS
RIGHTEOUS	FOLLOW	HOUSE	SICK

Your Church Name
City or Town

Multiple Choice

Enter the letter of the word that best fits 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

Coloring Page



I can help sick people learn about Jesus.



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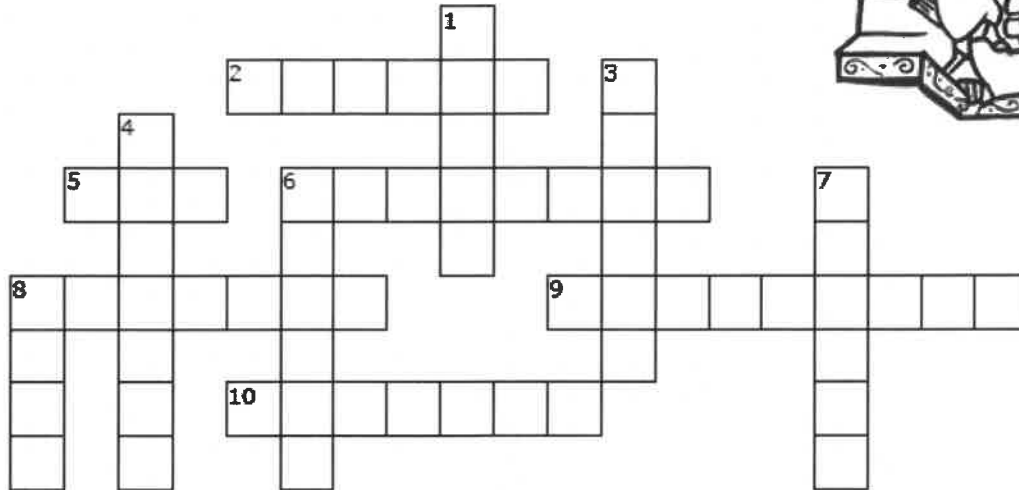
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The Calling of Matthew

"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
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9. A person who accumulates items (stamps, for example)
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1. Kindness and forgiveness shown toward someone
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DISCIPLE	DINNER	DOCTOR	COLLECTOR
SICK	MERCY	SINNER	FOLLOW
SITTING	MATTHEW	HEALTHY	TAX

The Calling of Matthew



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

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	U	Q	R	M	H	D	J	V	P	T	Z	Y	B	N	W	G	L	X	E	C	O	S	A	F	I

1. 11-24-19 _____
2. 21-22-18-18-20-21-11-22-4 _____
3. 5-20-4-21-13 _____
4. 23-26-21-1 _____
5. 7-26-15-15-20-4 _____
6. 7-22-21-11-22-4 _____
7. 23-26-15-15-20-4 _____
8. 6-20-24-18-11-6-13 _____

SINNER	MERCY	HEALTHY	DINNER
COLLECTOR	SICK	TAX	DOCTOR

The Calling of Matthew



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named _____ sitting at the tax collector's booth. " _____ me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having _____ at Matthew's house, many _____ and " _____ " came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your _____ eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the _____ who need a _____, but the _____. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:10-13 (NIV)

collectors	doctor	healthy	sick	teacher
dinner	Follow	Matthew	sinners	tax

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.



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The Calling of Matthew

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 Matthew 9:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 9:9-13 (NIV)



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

DISCIPLES	MATTHEW	DOCTOR	COLLECTORS
SACRIFICE	DINNER	HEALTHY	TEACHER
MERCY	SITTING	BOOTH	SINNERS
RIGHTEOUS	FOLLOW	HOUSE	SICK

Word Search Puzzle

Matthew - Physician - Righteous - Tax - Collector - Daughter

Suffered - Knelt - Dead - Alive - Garment - Faith

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