

 **Matthew 9:9-13****Combo****Teachers Dig In****Dig In to the Bible**

- Read: Matthew 9:9-13
- In This Passage: Jesus sees a tax collector named Matthew and calls him to be a disciple. When the religious leaders see Jesus eating with Matthew and his friends, they don't approve. They think tax collectors are scum. But Jesus is our friend, and he was a good friend to Matthew.
- Bible Point: Jesus is our friend...
- Application: ...so we're good friends to others.
- Summary Verse: "A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need" (Proverbs 17:17).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is our friend.* Friendships among kids can be fickle. Help kids see that Jesus was a good friend even when it wasn't good for his reputation. Jesus befriended the unpopular guy! Help kids realize that Jesus wants to be their friend, too.
- Think About: Who in your life has been a friend like Jesus?

Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that kids would feel accepted in their friendship with Jesus and extend his friendship to others.

Quick Tip

- Use this lesson as a chance to evaluate friendships among your kids. Be sensitive to those who may be new or who may not have many friends at church. If you have several "loners" in your group, pair them together and encourage them to use this lesson as an opportunity to forge new friendships.