Impact Kids Fall 2026
Older IK Leader Guide

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

November 11, 2026- Disciples are chosen for a purpose.
Bible-Matthew 9: 9-13, Jesus Calls Matthew
Disciples make Jesus part of every day.

Leader QR Codes-

ASK Leader

Leader Devos

Like It Counts

Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:00 PM (Prayer)
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM
** PL and LT groups will follow 4th & 5th schedule
*** PreK groups outside play is decided at campus

Family Table

What to Do:

As you gather everyone to eat, discuss these questions together. If one question takes the whole time, that is great. Your group has a great dynamic and feels comfortable talking to you and the group. Serve pizza, put names on water bottles, collect trash and clean up/wipe down tables and wash hands.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- Introduce yourself and welcome kids by name.
- Ask kids to share what happened during their day at school, home, etc.
- Ask kids to share new things or old things they are learning.
- Ask kids to share how they have seen God working this week.
- **For fun:** Would you rather be friends with a bear or a snake? Why?
- **This week:** Who in your life has been a friend like Jesus?

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Social Game

Say: Today we're going to learn that Jesus is our friend, so we're good friends to others. Let's imagine we could be good friends with famous people.

Share

- Tell kids about a famous person you wish you could be friends with.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about a famous person they'd like to be friends with.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Matthew 9, and say: We may not be friends with those famous people, but we do have the opportunity to be good friends to a lot of people! Let's see what we can learn about friendship from Jesus in the Bible.
The Bible isn't an ordinary book; it's God's special book. The Bible is one way God shows us his heart and how we can reflect him. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.

Video & Bible

Say: "Today we're learning that Jesus is our friend, so we're good friends to others. In our Bible story, the person Jesus befriended was an outcast. That means he didn't fit in and had a hard time making friends.

Watch "Jesus Calls Matthew"

Say: Jesus is our friend. We can see what kind of friend he is by looking at his friendship with Matthew! Jesus hung out with Matthew even though he wasn't popular. He defended Matthew when other people called him "scum." Jesus is a good friend!

What to Do: Pass out Activity Pages and Bibles to each kid with a pencil.

SAY:

- Today we're reading from Matthew 9: 9-13. (Pg 1058) Let's find it together in our Bibles.
- Matthew is in the New Testament, the part of the Bible that tells about Jesus and life after His resurrection. Matthew is part of the Gospels. Circle New Testament on your worksheet.
- To find it, start at the middle of your Bible to the first book in the New Testament. Look for Matthew, then find the big number 9 (chapter 9).
- Next, find the small numbers 9- 13 (verses 9-13). If you find it first, help someone nearby. Separate each of these and ask different kids to read each one.
- Once everyone is there, take turns reading the verses aloud together and listen for what God teaches us, Matthew, and his friends.

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Discussion

Let's spend a few minutes processing what we have learned from the Bible today.

- Keeping in mind that no one liked tax collectors, what can you learn about friendship from Jesus?
- Being a good friend means spending quality time with our friends! How did Jesus show this to Matthew?
- Jesus stood up for his friends when others insulted them. Do you have a similar situation you have been through? Did you ditch your friends or get ditched? How would you do that differently now?
- What do your friends do that shows they care about helping you? How do you model this for your friends?

Practice

Try to Fit Everyone in a Hoop
Supplies: 1 hula hoop per group
Say: Jesus welcomed Matthew even when others did not, and He invites us to include others too. Divide into teams and challenge each team to fit everyone inside a hula hoop with both feet touching inside the circle. Work together and keep trying until you discover a way to include everyone—hint: you don't all have to be standing!

Talk About It

- What helped your team make room for everyone?
- What can make it hard to include others?
- How can Jesus help us be friends with people who feel left out or different from us?

Remember: Jesus welcomed people others ignored. This story of Matthew helps each of us know that God wants to know and love everyone, no matter what we do or have done. That means we can share Jesus with everyone. Jesus chose each of us for a purpose!

Family Discipleship

What to Do: Your handout today is designed to help you remember what we learned. Take it home and share it with a family member, then ask them to go through it with you. We also want to hear how the other challenges are going. What are you learning? How is God helping you grow? Be ready to share your experiences with the group!
Leader Tip: Encourage families to look at the kid's work as they show up to pick up their kids.