



Mercy Not Sacrifice

Sunday, July 5, 2020



PARENT TIPS

Things to keep in mind as you lead discussion with your kids:

- **Validate your children's feelings.** Their feelings are real and it's ok for them to feel fear.
- **Don't feel like you have to have all the answers.** (None of us do!) It's ok to say, "I don't know. Let's try to find the answer together." It is also ok to sit with the unknowns together.
- **To help your children better grasp the story, try reading it together from their Adventure Bible or another children's Bible. If this is not available, we recommend the [NIV](#) or [NirV](#) versions available online.**

Bible Page Numbers

Matthew 9:9-13 – Adventure Bible pg. 1133



TALK ABOUT IT

Begin your time together with this question:

Do you know anyone who lies, cheats, steals, or tries to hurt others? Maybe you do some of these things. Maybe you are friends with people that do these things. Or



maybe you chose to not be friends with people because they do these things. Jesus did not discriminate or judge these types of people based on their sinful behavior. Instead, he showed them love and acceptance that only God can provide.



**SERMON +
WORSHIP**

Watch this week's Sermon and Worship Set



**ACTIVITY
OPTIONS**

Activity Option 1: Hidden Cross

What you need:

Thick paper such as card stock or poster board
Masking tape
Dark paint (black, red, brown)
Sponge

What you do:

Place the masking tape in the shape of a cross. Take the sponge, dip it in the paint, and cover the entire paper with paint so that no masking tape or paper is showing. Allow the paint to dry and then remove the masking tape to reveal the clean white cross underneath.

(more on the next page)

What to say:

Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone, that's right! He loves people so much even when they make bad choices or sin. Do you see this cross here that I made with the tape? We are going to cover it with paint so we can't see any of the paper or the tape. Without Jesus, our lives are gross and messy just like this paper. Now that the paint is dry let's peel away the tape. The cross represents Jesus who is clean and pure from sin and because of him we are also able to be made clean. Isn't that cool? I am so thankful for Jesus and the sacrifice he made to save us from our sins!



ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Activity Option 2: Sin is Icky!

What you need:

Water-based paint
Syrup
Crushed up crackers
Bucket of water
Soap
4 bowls

What you do:

Put each material in a separate bowl.

What you say:

Today we will be talking about a very important subject, that subject is sin. Simply put, sin is icky! It is not cool, cute, or something you want to see how close you can get to before falling in. But we all do it and that's why we need Jesus.

What you do:

1. Put your hands in the bowl containing the paint, ensuring that you get a good amount of paint on your hand.
2. Put your hands in the bowl containing syrup.
3. Put your hands in the bowl containing crushed crackers.

What you say:

What would happen if you never washed our hands or took a bath? We would begin to get dirtier and dirtier, then begin to smell! Before long, germs would develop from all the ickiness on your hands. Did you know that sin affects our spiritual lives in much the same way? We can take a bath to wash the dirt off our bodies, but what can we do about sin? A bath cannot remove sin, so does that mean we are all doomed? No! By the grace of God, there is an answer to our sin problem. God sent His only son Jesus into the world to die for our sins and raise to life again. Jesus can wash away our sins. All we have to do is pray and ask God to forgive our sins and He promises He will. When Jesus went to Matthew's party, he did not judge anyone there. These people were doing some very icky things, but Jesus still cared for them and wanted to bring them salvation. No matter how icky your sin is, Jesus loves you and forgives you.



Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the Pharisees were concerned about Jesus eating with "sinners"?
- Why do you think Matthew got up from his table and followed Jesus?
- Has there been a time when one of your friends made a bad decision? If so, did you help them through it or stop being friends with them.



PRAYER

Prayer:

What you say:

Let's pray and ask God to show mercy and grace.

Dear God,

Thank you that you care about the condition of our hearts. Thank you for making a way for us to be clean. Help us to desire (or want) to be in relationship with you. Help us care for others the way Jesus did. Amen.



MEMORY VERSE

Memory Verse:

Parents: We want to encourage you to spend time each week as a family memorizing a passage of Scripture. We have provided two different versions to choose from.

John 3:17 (NirV)

God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him.

John 3:17 (ESV)

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.