Preschool–Grade 5

Jesus Calls Matthew Craft

Follow me · Matthew 9:9–13 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



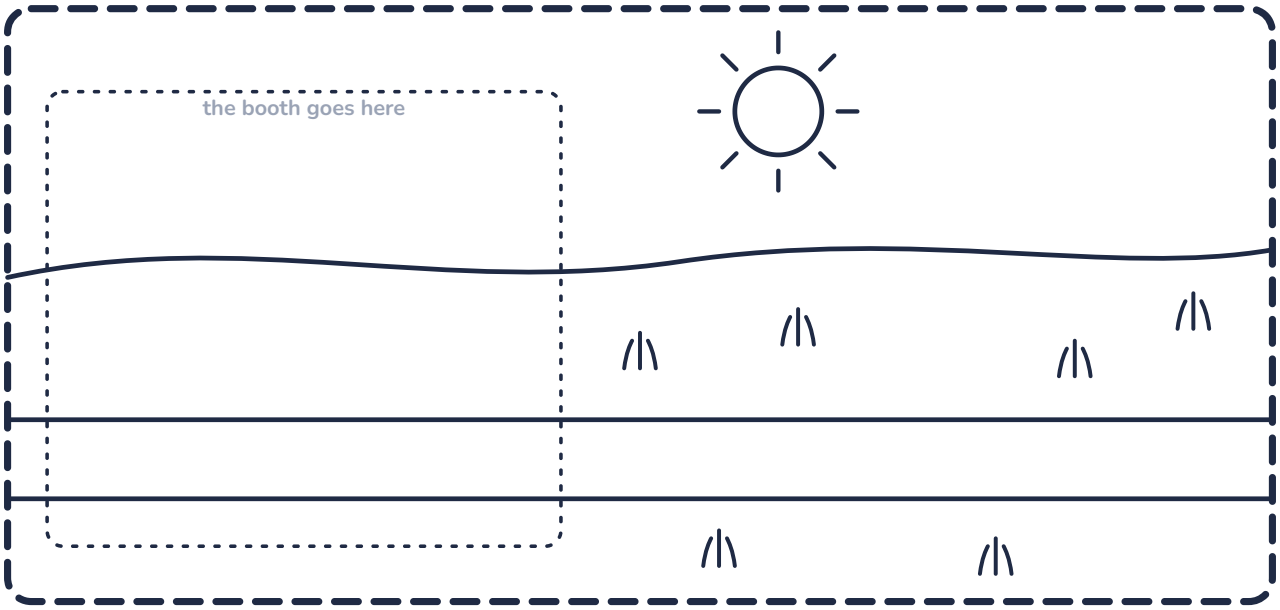
Harder

Both levels are a card with a light blue sky, a yellow sun, green hills and a light brown road. On the left stands the receipt of custom: a booth with a red awning, two brown poles, a brown table and an empty stool. A light brown strip of six brown footprints slides out of the booth and down the road, because Jesus said, "Follow me. And he arose, and followed him" (Matthew 9:9). Medium (left): the card, the booth and the footprint strip. Harder (right): the same, plus a light brown house at the end of the road with a brown door that opens, for the meal in the house (9:10).

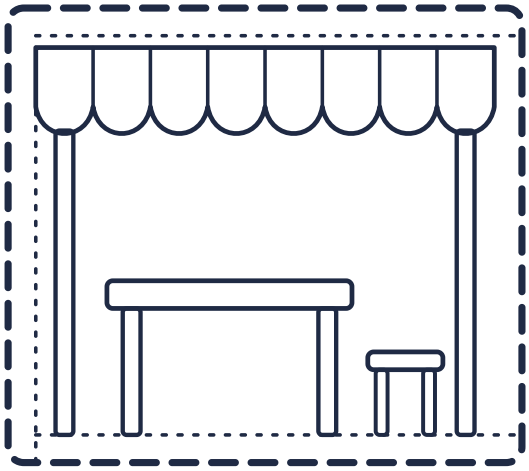
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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, sun yellow, hills and fields green, road light brown.
booth: awning red, poles, table and stool brown.





footprint strip: color it light brown
and the footprints brown

Glue the booth only on its left, top and bottom edges, outside the dotted lines. Leave the right side open, and slide the strip in under the booth.

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

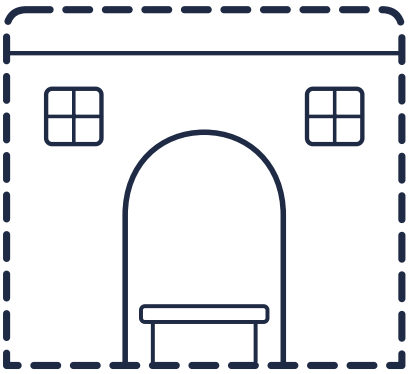
Matthew 9:13 (KJV) · glue this strip on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the booth, the footprint strip and the verse strip. You also need a glue stick.

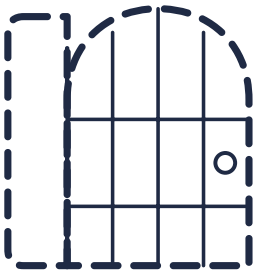
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



house: color it light brown, the two windows and the table brown



door: color it brown, fold the glue tab back

In the doorway, draw the people who came and sat down to eat at the table.

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the booth, the footprint strip and the verse strip from page 2 first.
2. Color the house light brown, and its two windows and the table in the doorway brown. In the doorway, above the table, draw the people who came and sat down to eat with Jesus (Matthew 9:10).
3. Color the door brown. Cut out the house and the door on the dashed lines.
4. Fold the door's glue tab back on the dotted line. Glue the tab on the house just left of the doorway, so the door opens and shuts over it.
5. Glue the house on the right end of the card, with its bottom edge just above the road, so the strip can still slide under it.
6. Tell it: pull the footprints down the road to the house. Jesus sat at meat in the house, and many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him (9:10). Open the door. "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (9:13).

VBSHQ

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/matthew-the-tax-collector-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, yellow, green, light brown, red and brown, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and crayons for the drawing.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the booth, the footprint strip and the verse strip, and glue the booth on each card along its left, top and bottom edges. Let it dry, then check that the strip slides in and out.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the booths on. Kids color the card, the booth and the strip, then slide the strip in and pull the footprints out. Glue the verse strip on the back for them.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, glue the booth and slide in the strip. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then add the house from page 3 at the end of the road, with a door that opens on the meal (Matthew 9:10). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Card:** color the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the hills and fields green and the road light brown.
2. **Booth:** color the awning red, and the two poles, the table and the stool brown.
3. **Strip:** color the footprint strip light brown and the six footprints brown.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the booth, the footprint strip and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue the booth:** put glue only on the booth's left, top and bottom edges, outside the dotted lines. Press it on the card where it says "the booth goes here." Leave the right side open.
6. **Slide:** slide the footprint strip into the open side of the booth along the road, the end without the tab first, until only the pull tab sticks out.
7. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
8. **Tell it:** Matthew sat at the receipt of custom (Matthew 9:9). Jesus passed by and said, "Follow me." Pull the tab, and the footprints come out of the booth and down the road: "And he arose, and followed him" (9:9). The stool is empty!

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the booth. Where was Matthew sitting when Jesus saw him? *(At the receipt of custom, Matthew 9:9)*
- What was Matthew's job called? *(A publican, 10:3. He collected taxes.)*
- What did Jesus say to Matthew? *("Follow me," 9:9)*
- Pull the footprints. What did Matthew do? *(He arose, and followed him, 9:9)*
- Point to the empty stool. What did Matthew leave behind? *(All, Luke 5:28)*
- Who came and sat down to eat with Jesus in the house? *(Many publicans and sinners, Matthew 9:10)*
- Who needs a physician? *(They that are sick, 9:12)*
- Who did Jesus come to call? *(Sinners, to repentance, 9:13)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: passed forth** means walked on; **receipt of custom** means the place where custom, a tax, was paid; **publican** means a man who collected taxes; **arose** means got up; **sat at meat** means sat down to eat; **Pharisees** means religious leaders who were strict about the law; **whole** means healthy; **physician** means a doctor; **mercy** means kindness to someone who doesn't deserve it; **repentance** means turning from sin to God.
- **What the Bible says:** Jesus saw Matthew "sitting at the receipt of custom" and said, "Follow me. And he arose, and followed him" (Matthew 9:9). The Bible doesn't describe the receipt of custom or the house. The booth, the awning, the table, the stool, the footprints, the house and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. Matthew 9 names no coins or money bags, so none are drawn.
- **No person is printed, and never Jesus:** the empty stool and the footprints show that Matthew got up and followed. On the harder level, the only people are the child's own drawing in the doorway.
- **The sliding strip:** glue sticks work best. Too much glue near the road can catch the strip, so keep the glue on the edges and test the slide before the glue dries.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Jesus Calls Matthew lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/matthew-the-tax-collector.

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