

June 2
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
The Disciples Replaced Judas
(Acts 1)

CHRIST CONNECTION: Matthias was chosen to join the disciples to tell others about Jesus. God wants us to work together to tell others about Jesus, too.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? *The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.*

KEY PASSAGE: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, Galatians 5:22

Key Passage Phrase: God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus.

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Hold up a **coin** for the preschoolers. Show preschoolers that each side is different. Explain how people will sometimes flip a coin to decide between two options.

SAY *Hi again everyone! I'm sure you have seen one of these before. Every coin has two sides: a heads side and a tails side. Have you ever heard of 'flipping a coin?' When a person is having trouble deciding between two good choices, sometimes they will flip a coin to make a choice. In today's story, the disciples did not flip a coin, but they did something similar: they cast lots. We'll find out more soon.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *Our big picture question and answer are, **How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.** God guided the disciples to pick Matthias through the casting of lots, like flipping a coin. God guides us today through the Holy Spirit.*

4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Prior to the session, write each word of the key passage on a separate **index card**. Lay out the cards in the correct order on the ground and guide preschoolers to say the key passage with you. Then, invite a preschooler to role a dice. Count the number of dots on the dice, and then count the words from the beginning of the passage. Then turn over the card that is the number that was just rolled. For example, if a five was rolled, you will turn over the fifth word. Point to each card and say the passage together again, pausing to let preschoolers say the missing word. Continue play with a different preschooler rolling a dice and turning over a word as long as preschoolers are interested.

SAY *Just as a tree produces fruit, the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, and all of these other things in our lives. He truly is a great gift!*

5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? *(Preschoolers' answers will vary.)*

2. How many disciples were there after Judas died? (11)
3. Why did Jesus' disciples pray before choosing someone to join them as the twelfth disciple? (*They were asking God for guidance to choose the right person.*)
4. Who are some Christians you know who you can work with to tell others about Jesus? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
5. Who was chosen as the twelfth disciple? (*Matthias*)
6. ***How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.***

SAY *The disciples prayed to find the person who would join them and tell others about Jesus. All Christians are called to work together to tell others the good news about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *God, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit to guide us and help us tell others about You, as Matthias and the other disciples did. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

WORK TOGETHER

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and provide some blocks to each group. Instruct preschoolers to work together to build the best building or tower they can. Compliment each group on their efforts and on working together.

SAY *Matthias was selected to join the disciples as they worked together to share the good news of Jesus with everyone. You all worked together to build a tower or a building, and you did a great job! All Christians are called to work together to glorify God and share the truth and love of God.*

TELL A STORY TOGETHER

Guide the preschoolers to make up a story, together. Start by saying "Once upon a time, there was a ..." Let the preschoolers fill in the blank. Continue inviting preschoolers to fill in the blanks for the story by providing other characters, a conflict or problem to solve, and then a happy ending.

SAY *We just wrote a story together! You can go home and tell people in your home our story. If you do that, will you be telling the truth? Of course not. Our story was made up just a few minutes ago! Matthias was chosen by the disciples to join them in telling the true story of how Jesus rose from the dead.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

As children color, emphasize the Christ Connection

SAY *Matthias was chosen to join the disciples to tell others about Jesus. God wants us to work together to tell others about Jesus, too.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Acts 1 and tell the following Bible story. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

THE DISCIPLES REPLACED JUDAS

STORYTELLING TIPS

Count up: Count to 11 and 2 with preschoolers when those numbers are mentioned in the story.

Use volunteers: Choose 11 children to be the disciples as you say their names in the Bible story. Then choose one more to come up to be Matthias.

Jesus' disciples had seen Jesus go up to heaven at the Mount of Olives. They **went back to Jerusalem and met together in the upstairs room where they were staying.** These were the names of the eleven disciples who were closest to Jesus: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son

of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. They prayed together along with the other followers, including Jesus' mother Mary and Jesus' brothers.

Peter stood up and said, "The Scriptures said that Jesus would be hurt by His friend, so that is why Judas Iscariot turned against Him. Judas died, so we should pick someone else—someone who has followed Jesus too. This person will go with us and tell the truth about Jesus, that He is alive!"

So they decided to choose between two men: one man named Joseph and another named Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, You know our hearts. Show which of these two You want to take the place that Judas left." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias. So Matthias was added to the eleven apostles.

Christ Connection: Matthias was chosen to join the disciples to tell others about Jesus. God wants us to work together to tell others about Jesus, too.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

June 2
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds
The Disciples Replaced Judas
(Acts 1)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God wants us to work together to tell others about Jesus.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How do we know God wants us to know Him? We know God wants us to know Him because He shows Himself through the Bible.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God's Spirit helps us be like Jesus. Galatians 5:22

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY: CLAP AND PAT

Encourage children to sit in a circle and copy your actions. Clap your thighs and say, "God wants," and then clap your hands twice and say, "us to," pat your thighs and say, "work to- ... " and then clap as you say, "-gether!" Repeat, gaining in speed each time you say the statement. Encourage the children to say the words in high- or low-pitched voices.

SAY Fill in the blank: God wants us to _____. Yes! Work together! God wants us to work together to tell others about Jesus! In today's Bible story we will hear about how Jesus' friends met together to pray for God's help. They chose a man named Matthias to join the group of friends and tell about Jesus.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

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3. LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at Galatians 5:22. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to do the following motions when saying the key passage phrase: God's Spirit (*point upward*) gives us love (*cross arms over your chest like a hug*), joy (*point to your mouth and make a big smile*), and peace (*fold hands*) like Jesus (*point upward*). Galatians 5:22 (*Open hands like opening a Bible.*)

SAY Jesus left earth and returned to heaven. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us do God's work on earth while we wait for Him to come again. The Holy Spirit gives us love, joy, and peace.

ACTIVITIES

BUILD TOGETHER

Sit toddlers in a circle and distribute plastic interlocking blocks to each child. Place one block in the middle of the circle. Call on each child to place her block on top of the middle block(s), one at a time. Continue until each child has had a turn. Congratulate the toddlers on their build. Say one word of the Christ connection as each block is laid.

SAY Who should we tell about? Jesus! God wants us to work together to tell about Jesus.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Jesus' friends met together.
- The friends prayed for God's help.
- Jesus' friends chose Matthias (muh THIGH uhs) to tell about Jesus.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 1. and tell the following Bible story:

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

After Jesus' friends saw Jesus go up to heaven, they went back to the city. They met together in a room. Jesus' closest friends were there with other people who followed Jesus. One of Jesus' close friends, Peter, said, "Our friend Judas turned against Jesus like the Bible said. Now that Judas is not with us, we should pick someone else to go with us and tell others about Jesus." Would the friends pick Joseph? Or should they pick Matthias (muh THIGH uhs)? They prayed and asked for God's help. God showed them that He wanted Matthias, so Matthias joined the group of friends.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.