

Matthias the Apostle – Preschool to 1st grade

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

May 12, 2024

GATHER

Today we're going to talk about a group of friends who wanted to tell others about Jesus. Ask: What do you think makes a good friend? What do you like about your best friend?

Say: When you are friends with someone, you spend time getting to know them. Friends enjoy doing different things together. What are some things that you enjoy doing with your friends?

Say: We're going to say a prayer and then talk about Jesus' group of friends, the disciples. They are going to ask a new friend to join them in their very important work. Let's begin.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
We want to be on your team.
Help us follow you.
Help us love others, like you did.
Help us be good team players.
Amen.

Open the Bible

Say: Jesus picked twelve people to be part of his special team. One of those people made some bad choices and wasn't able to continue. The rest of the disciples got together to pick someone to take his place. Let's learn how they decided who would be one of the disciples.

Matthias

Discuss:

Say:

1. What were the names of the two choices to be a new disciple? (Barsabbas and Matthias)
2. Why did Peter want to get the disciples' attention? (He wanted to tell them about picking a new disciple.)
3. Why was it important that this person know who Jesus was and that he came back to life?

Activate Faith

1. Count Me In! - Craft

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Kids make bracelets with twelve beads as they remember that talking to God can help us.

Supplies: nylon string or yarn, multicolored beads, small bowls, scissors.

Instructions:

Matthias was the new apostle who joined after Jesus died. The apostles invited someone new to help tell others about Jesus. Before they decided on who would be joining them, they talked to God about it – meaning they prayed.

Let's make some twelve-beaded bracelets to help us remember this story.

1. Pass out one length of nylon string or yarn to each kid.
2. Help kids count out twelve beads of any color they choose, then help them add their beads to the yarn.
3. When kids have strung all twelve beads, help them tie a knot on either side of the twelve beads to hold them in place.
4. To finish, tie the bracelet around each kid's wrist, then cut off the excess string or yarn.

2. Welcome to our Church! – Craft/Activity

Kids make welcome cards for new church members as they remember, "I'm on Team Jesus."

Supplies: cardstock or construction paper, markers, stickers, whatever decorating elements you have available.

Instructions:

Say: Today we talked about Matthias the apostle. Matthias followed Jesus for a long time, and when the Disciples needed someone new to join their group, they asked Matthias to come along. Even though he knew the other disciples, Matthias was still the newest guy in the group. Have any of you ever moved somewhere or been the new person? How'd it feel? Was it hard or easy? Allow kids to respond. Well, there are a lot of new people right here in our church. So today, we're going to make welcome cards for our new members to help them feel welcomed and loved.

1. Pass out cardstock or construction paper to kids, then invite them to fold their sheets in half to create cards.
2. Have kids decorate their cards inside and out and add a message welcoming a new person to Rush Church.
3. Give your cards to the Children's Director to distribute to new people at our church.