



Vacation Bible School 2020
Grades 1-5
SESSION 1

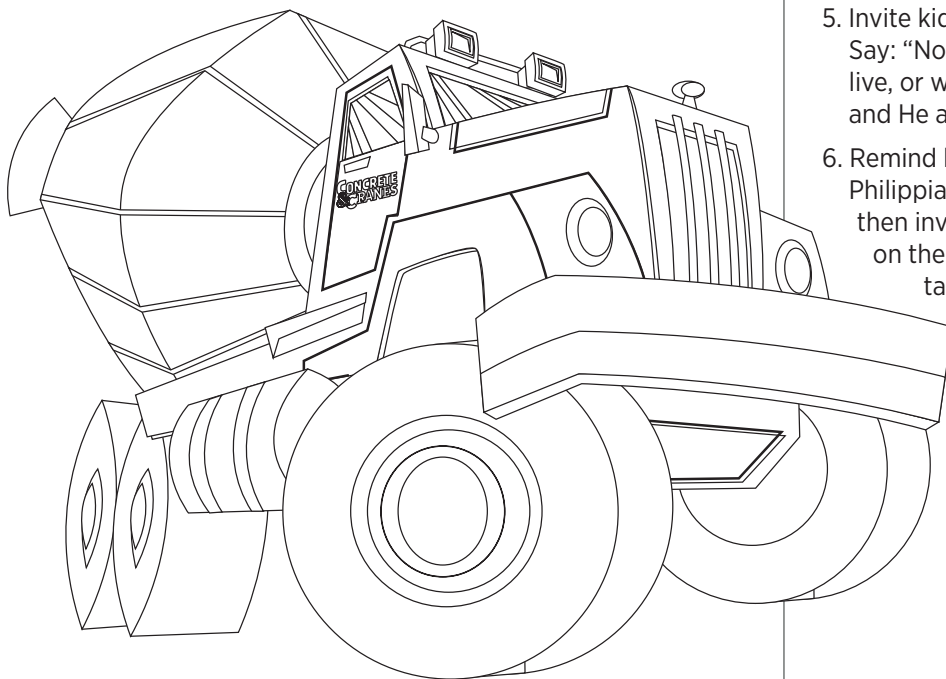
**JESUS CHOSE
MATTHEW**

Matthew was a tax collector and often sat at a booth where people came to pay their taxes. Many people did not like tax collectors because they often took more money than they were supposed to. They kept the extra for themselves! One day Jesus walked by and saw Matthew sitting at the tollbooth. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow Me." Matthew got up immediately, leaving everything behind, and followed Jesus.

Matthew hosted a grand banquet at his house. Jesus and His disciples came to the banquet. Many tax collectors and other sinners were also at the banquet eating with Jesus and the disciples. When the Pharisees (teachers of the law) saw this, they began to complain to the disciples. They asked why Jesus would eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus overheard the Pharisees talking to His disciples. He said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. For I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners." Jesus was not interested in how good a person was or how bad. Jesus wanted people to listen and follow Him.

Matthew 9:9-13



ACTIVITY

Straight Line Art

(Application Activity #2—10 minutes)

Prep

- Paper (1 piece per child)
- Rulers or paint stir sticks
- Pencils
- Option: If you don't have access to rulers, any kind of straight edge will work for this activity.

1. Provide each child with a piece of paper, ruler, and pencil.
2. Print at the top of your paper: Jesus chooses to love and at the bottom of the paper: I can't earn it. Guide children to do the same.
3. In the middle of the prepared piece of paper, demonstrate how to use the ruler to write your name using only straight lines. Challenge kids to "write" their names in the middle of their papers using the rulers provided.
4. Gather kids together in a circle. Ask: "Was it difficult for you to spell your name with only straight lines? What are some letters that were easier to write than others?"
5. Invite kids to display their completed signs. Say: "No matter who you are, where you live, or what you've done, Jesus loves you, and He always will."
6. Remind kids of this week's theme verse, Philippians 1:6. Read the verse aloud and then invite kids to read aloud the words on their signs together. Challenge kids to take their signs with them and put their signs somewhere in their home that will remind them that Jesus loves them.