

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	God forgives those who recognise they need him
Bible Reading	Luke 5:27-32
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:27-32 In this episode we see the contrast between how Levi and the Pharisees/Teachers of the Law respond to Jesus. Levi recognises his need of Jesus. He joyfully accepts the offer of restored friendship and recognises Jesus’ authority to tell him how to live. The Pharisees, in contrast, place themselves in judgement over Jesus. They don’t recognise his claims, and therefore judge Jesus’ actions by their own (perceived to be higher) intellectual and moral standing. These are the only two ways to respond to Jesus – humbly recognising our need and therefore joyfully accepting his gift of forgiveness, and following and obeying him, or else proudly setting ourselves in judgement over Jesus, assuming we know better. Jesus only offers forgiveness and restored friendship to those who recognise their need.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>God forgives those who come to him recognising their need</i></p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Cut out some coloured circles of card and put sticky tape or blu-tack on the back.</p>
Getting Started	Stick coloured dots all over 2 people. Act out a scenario where the first person with the dots sees the dots and recognises they are sick and so goes to see the doctor. In the 2 nd scenario, the other person refuses to see the dots, even though multiple people point them out. The person therefore refuses to go to the doctor because they won’t acknowledge that they are sick. Sometimes we can be a bit like that...
Finding Out 1. Matthew’s response to Jesus (v.27-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recap from last lesson • <i>Q: What did Jesus do for the paralysed man? How did the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law respond? How did Jesus prove he could forgive sins?</i> ➤ Last week we found out that Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins. This week we will find out <i>who</i> he forgives. <p>Read Luke 5:27-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was Levi’s job</i> ➤ Tax collectors were not popular in Jesus’ time. They worked for the enemy (the Romans who had occupied their country), and they often took more money than they were supposed to and kept it for themselves. • <i>Q: What would you expect any Jew to do if they walked past a tax collector’s booth? What did Jesus do?</i> • <i>Q: Why did Jesus choose Levi?</i> ➤ It can’t be because Levi was better than other people. Or because he was popular. Also notice that Levi didn’t ask for Jesus’ help (like, for example, the paralysed man from last week). Jesus was the one that approached him. ➤ There must be another reason that Jesus chose Levi.... • <i>Q: Imagine someone came up to you one day and said, “Give up everything and put me first in every part of your life – what would you say?”</i>

<p>2. The Banquet (v.29)</p> <p>3. The Pharisees response to Jesus (v.30-32)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How did Levi respond? Why do you think he responded that way?</i> ➤ It would only be reasonable to respond by giving up everything you have to follow Jesus if you believed it was worth it - that what Jesus was offering was more valuable than everything else you have in your life. And if you believed Jesus had the right to command you to live your life in a certain way. <p>Read Luke 5:29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did Levi do next? What does that show about how Levi felt about becoming Jesus' follower?</i> ➤ Levi was so joyful that he threw a big party! He recognised that even though being a follower of Jesus meant giving things up, it was also a great! • <i>Q: Who did Levi invite to his banquet? Why did he invite other tax collectors?</i> ➤ He wanted them to meet Jesus also. He knew they also needed Jesus. He wanted them to share in what he had experienced for himself. <p>Read Luke 5:30-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How did the Pharisees and teachers of the law respond to the banquet?</i> • <i>Q: Why do you think the Pharisees and Levi responded so differently to Jesus?</i> ➤ Remember from last week, we talked about the fact that when we do things against God, we ruin our friendship with God ➤ All of us start our relationship with God that way. We have all done things against God and there is nothing we can do to restore our friendship. We need God to forgive us to make things right again. ➤ If we recognise this, as Levi did, then when Jesus offers us forgiveness and friendship, we will recognise this as a wonderful gift, and be prepared to follow him and live for him. ➤ If we don't think we need Jesus to forgive us, then we will be like the Pharisees. We will question God and why he does things the way he does, rather than humbly coming to him for forgiveness. ➤ For example, you might question things like why God allows suffering. Its ok to ask questions, but only if you are also coming to God in repentance (not using questions as an excuse to avoid humbly asking God for his forgiveness).
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God forgives all who come to him humbly recognising their sin and need of him ➤ If you have done this – then God forgives you! Regardless of what you have done ➤ If you haven't yet asked God to forgive you – why haven't you? Is it because you don't want to admit you have done things you shouldn't and that you are the one responsible for ruining your friendship with God? (Refer back to the "Getting Started" activity.) Don't miss out on God's forgiveness because of your pride!
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	God forgives those who recognise they need him
Bible Reading	Luke 5:27-32
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:27-32 In this episode we see the contrast between how Levi and the Pharisees/Teachers of the Law respond to Jesus. Levi recognises his need of Jesus. He joyfully accepts the offer of restored friendship and recognises Jesus’ authority to tell him how to live. The Pharisees, in contrast, place themselves in judgement over Jesus. They don’t recognise his claims, and therefore judge Jesus’ actions by their own (perceived to be higher) intellectual and moral standing. These are the only two ways to respond to Jesus – humbly recognising our need and therefore joyfully accepting his gift of forgiveness, and following and obeying him, or else proudly setting ourselves in judgement over Jesus, assuming we know better. Jesus only offers forgiveness and restored friendship to those who recognise their need.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>God forgives those who come to him recognising their need</i></p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Cut out some coloured circles of card and put sticky tape or blu-tack on the back. Have 2 dolls available if using them. Bring the Lego man on the stretcher to recap from last week.</p>
Getting Started	Stick coloured dots all over 2 children or dolls. Act out a scenario. The first child/doll with the dots sees the dots and recognises they are sick and so goes to see the doctor. In the 2 nd scenario, the other child/doll refuses to see the dots, even though multiple people point them out. The child/doll therefore refuses to go to the doctor because they won’t acknowledge that they are sick. We are going to see how we can be a bit like the silly person who refused to go to the doctor.
Finding Out 1. Matthew’s response to Jesus (v.27-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recap from last lesson • <i>Q: What was wrong with the man (show Lego man)? What did Jesus say to him when he first saw him? How did Jesus prove that he could forgive him?</i> ➤ Last time we found out that Jesus has the power to forgive sins. Today we will find out <i>who</i> he forgives. ➤ One day, Jesus met another person who needed his help. He met a man called Levi. Levi worked for the Romans. The Romans were enemies of the Jews ➤ Split the class into 2 groups. Call one group the “Romans” and one group the “Jews”. Make faces at each other to show that you don’t like each other! ➤ Get one of the “Jews” to be Levi. Levi left all his friends on the side of the “Jews” and went to be friends with the “Romans” instead (act this out by having Levi move to the other group). He got a job collecting money from the Jews to give to the Romans (act this out also). ➤ <i>Q: How do you think the “Jews” felt about Levi?</i> ➤ One day Jesus was out walking, and he saw Levi. • <i>Q: What do you think he said to Levi?</i> <p>Read Luke 5:27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus said to Levi, “Come and follow me and be my friend”!

<p>2. The Banquet (v.29)</p> <p>3. The Pharisees response to Jesus (v.30-32)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Why do you think Jesus chose Levi to be his friend?</i> ➤ It wasn't because Levi was good (he had done things that were wrong). He wasn't popular. He didn't even ask Jesus for help. Jesus forgave him because he knew that Levi needed him. There was no other way Levi could be friends with God. • <i>Q: What do you think Levi did?</i> <p>Read Luke 5:28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Levi left everything behind and followed Jesus! ➤ Levi knew that he had done things that were wrong. He knew he needed Jesus to forgive him and make his friendship with God better again. He was so glad that Jesus chose him and wanted to be friends with him! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Levi was so happy that he threw a big party! <p>Read Luke 5:29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When Jesus forgives you and makes you friends with God again, it makes you very happy. It makes you feel like you want to party ➤ Levi invited all his friends to come to his party. He knew his friends also needed Jesus, so he asked them to come and meet Jesus at his party. • <i>Q: What do you think they might have been saying about Jesus at the party?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Not everyone was happy with Jesus though! The Pharisees saw Jesus having a party with Levi and his friends. Instead of being happy, they were grumpy! They said, "Why is Jesus having a party with people who have done bad things?" ➤ Which was a pretty silly question! It's like saying to a doctor – why do sick people come and see you? • <i>Q: Who is the best person to go and see if you are sick?</i> ➤ Imagine saying to a doctor – send all the sick people away! Would that be right? That's what the grumpy people were saying to Jesus – "Send all these people that need you away!" • <i>Q: Did the Pharisees need Jesus to help them?</i> ➤ The Pharisees also needed Jesus! They had done bad things too, but instead of asking Jesus to forgive them, they argued with him. They thought that they were better than Jesus, so it would be silly to go to him for help! ➤ The sad thing is, lots of people don't see that they need Jesus to help them. Like a sick person who can't see that they are sick and so won't go to see the doctor. (Refer back to the Getting Started activity) ➤ Everyone needs Jesus! We need him to do something about our bad hearts. He is the only one who has the power to forgive us and to make us friends with God again. But we need to ask for his help.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God forgives anyone who comes to him humbly asking for forgiveness? If you have done that, then he has forgiven you, no matter what you have done! ➤ If not, why not ask him to forgive you today!
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	God forgives those who recognise they need him
Bible Reading	Luke 5:27-32
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:27-32 In this episode we see the contrast between how Levi and the Pharisees/Teachers of the Law respond to Jesus. Levi recognises his need of Jesus. He joyfully accepts the offer of restored friendship and recognises Jesus’ authority to tell him how to live. The Pharisees, in contrast, place themselves in judgement over Jesus. They don’t recognise his claims, and therefore judge Jesus’ actions by their own (perceived to be higher) intellectual and moral standing. These are the only two ways to respond to Jesus – humbly recognising our need and therefore joyfully accepting his gift of forgiveness, and following and obeying him, or else proudly setting ourselves in judgement over Jesus, assuming we know better. Jesus only offers forgiveness and restored friendship to those who recognise their need.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>God forgives those who come to him recognising their need</i></p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Cut out some coloured circles of card and put sticky tape or blu-tack on the back. Have 2 dolls available if using them. Bring the Lego man on the stretcher to recap from last week. Bring pretend food for a party if possible.</p>
Getting Started	Stick coloured dots all over 2 children or dolls. Act out a scenario. The first child/doll with the dots sees the dots and recognises they are sick and so goes to see the doctor. In the 2 nd scenario, the other child/doll refuses to see the dots, even though multiple people point them out. The child/doll therefore refuses to go to the doctor because they won’t acknowledge that they are sick. We are going to see how we can be a bit like the silly person who refused to go to the doctor.
Finding Out 1. Matthew’s response to Jesus (v.27-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recap from last lesson • <i>Q: What was wrong with the man (show Lego man)? What did Jesus do for him?</i> ➤ Jesus made his legs better so he could walk again. But he also did something even better than that – he forgave him and made him friends with God again. ➤ After that, Jesus met another person who needed his help. He met a man called Levi. Levi worked for the Romans. The Romans were enemies of the Jews ➤ Split the class into 2 groups. Call one group the “Romans” and one group the “Jews”. Make faces at each other to show that you don’t like each other! ➤ Get one of the “Jews” to be Levi. Levi left all his friends on the side of the “Jews” and went to be friends with the “Romans” instead (act this out by having Levi move to the other group). ➤ <i>Q: How do you think the “Jews” felt about Levi?</i> ➤ One day Jesus was out walking, and he saw Levi. • <i>Q: What do you think he said to Levi?</i> <p>Read Luke 5:27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus said to Levi, “Come and be my friend”! Jesus knew that Levi needed him. Levi had done bad things, but Jesus offered to forgive him and be his friend. • <i>Q: What do you think Levi did?</i>

<p>2. The Banquet (v.29)</p> <p>3. The Pharisees response to Jesus (v.30-32)</p>	<p>Read Luke 5:28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Levi left everything behind and followed Jesus! ➤ Levi knew that he had done things that were wrong. He knew he needed Jesus to forgive him and make his friendship with God better again. He was so happy that Jesus wanted to be friends with him. ➤ Levi was so happy that he threw a big party! ➤ When Jesus forgives you and makes you friends with God again, it makes you very happy. It makes you feel like you want to party ➤ Levi invited all his friends to come to his party. He knew his friends also needed Jesus, so he asked them to come and meet Jesus at his party. ➤ <i>Act out a happy party – “Isn’t Jesus great! He wants to be friends with me, even though I’ve done things that are wrong”. (Could use pretend food/cups etc here if you think you can carry on with the story, or else get them out at the end)</i> ➤ Not everyone was happy with Jesus though! Some people saw Jesus having a party with Levi and his friends. Instead of being happy, they were grumpy! They said, “Why is Jesus having a party with people who have done bad things?” ➤ Which was a pretty silly question! Its like saying to a doctor – why do sick people come and see you? • <i>Q: Who is the best person to go and see if you are sick?</i> ➤ Imagine saying to a doctor – send all the sick people away! Would that be right? That’s what the grumpy people were saying to Jesus – “Send away all these people that need you!” ➤ Just like a doctor can help you if you sick, Jesus can help you to be friends with God. He is the only one who can help you. ➤ The sad thing is, some people don’t see that they need Jesus to help them. Like a sick person who can’t see that they are sick and so won’t go to see the doctor. (Refer back to the Getting Started activity) ➤ Everyone needs Jesus! We need him to do something about our bad hearts, and to be able to be friends with God. But we need to ask for his help.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray that God would help the children see that they need Jesus to forgive them and make their friendship with God right again.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Luke 5:32</i> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.</p>