

Matthias the Apostle

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Church Season
Easter 7

Lesson Focus
Talking to God can help us.



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids interact with elements of the story Matthias the Apostle.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Bible time costumes (beards, sandals, robes, scarves, etc.), communication devices (phones, walkie-talkies, computers, paper and envelopes, etc.), poster board, markers or crayons

Circle Time

Kids use different colored socks to help them enter the story.

Leaflet

Different colored socks

Prayer Time

Kids pretend to talk to God on the phone during prayer.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Matthias the Apostle Storytelling

Kids perform an echo pantomime as a way to tell the story.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Who Will It Be?

Kids use stickers and drawing to complete the pictures on their leaflets.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Markers or crayons

Lesson At-A-Glance

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Talking to God Kids add stickers to pictures to show when they can talk to God.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
We All Need Help Kids create pictures of things to talk to God about.	Leaflets	Paper, kid-safe scissors, transparent tape, kid-friendly magazines, index cards, markers or crayons
Who Should We Choose? Kids play a circle game about choosing apostles.	Leaflet	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the day and say good-bye with a rhyme.	Leaflet	None
Prayer Time Kids copy the leader's words and actions during the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, set the Bible time costumes in an open area of the room. Place the assorted communication devices in another area of the room. Print “Talking to God can help us” on the poster board. Set the poster board and markers or crayons on a surface where they can be used.

As kids arrive, invite them to explore the different areas. **What would you wear if you were a disciple? What are some things you would do? We will learn about the disciples and what they did in our story today. What are some ways to talk to people? How can you talk to God?** Read the words on the poster board aloud. **I’ll help you trace your hand and sign your name on this poster. Then we’ll hang it up for everyone to see.** Provide copies of this lesson’s Coloring Page for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Once all of the kids have had a chance to play, invite them to help put away the supplies and join you for Circle Time. Use the following rhyme to help kids transition.

**You’ll help me and I’ll help you.
We’ll skip to Circle Time when we’re through.**

Circle Time

Welcome kids enthusiastically! **Hello, everyone. I’m glad to see you! Let’s say and play a rhyme to see who’s here!** Repeat the following rhyme using each of the kids’ names.

**[Name]’s here!
[Name]’s here!
Clap your hands and give a cheer!
[Name] is in God’s house today!
Hooray!** (clap and cheer)

Hold up the leaflet, pointing to the seasonal color and icon. **What color and picture do you see?** (*gold cross*) **This gold cross reminds us that we are in the church season of Easter. Stand up if you dressed up like a disciple during Play Time.** Let kids respond to this and the following. **We’re going to hear about something the disciples did soon after Easter in our story today.**

What are some different ways you can talk to people? Raise your hand if you signed the poster during Play Time. What did the poster say? (*Talking to God can help us.*) **One thing the disciples do in today’s story is talk to God.** Hold up the different colored socks. **How do you decide what color socks to wear? How do you decide what to have for breakfast? In our story, the disciples have to make a choice. Let’s read how they decide what choice to make.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Bible time costumes (beards, sandals, robes, scarves, etc.)
Communication devices (telephones, walkie-talkies, computers, paper and envelopes, etc.)
Poster board
Markers or crayons

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Different colored socks

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Praying is a way to talk to God. Let's pretend we're talking to God on the phone during our prayer.

Spark Resources
None

Hello, God.

Supplies

Thanks for bringing us together today.

None

Help us hear and learn from your word.

Thanks for listening.

Good-bye.

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Matthias the Apostle Storytelling

Gather kids in an open area of the room. **It's time to hear a story from God's word, the Bible. The disciples have to choose someone to replace Judas, one member of their group. Let's find out how they decide.** Hand out a Spark Story Bible to each of the kids and help them find Matthias the Apostle on pages 500–501. Encourage kids to follow along as you read the story through once.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Following the story, collect the Bibles and invite kids to stand in a circle. **We're going to tell the story together another time. Repeat the words I say and copy the actions I do.** Read the story again, a sentence at a time, while doing these actions.

The disciples were meeting together with other followers of Jesus. (Pat kids standing next to you on the back.) **It was hot and noisy, and the sunlight shone down on Peter as he spoke.** (Pretend to wipe sweat off brow and shade eyes.)

"Quiet, please! Shhh, shhh." (Put finger to lips.) **When it was quiet, Peter began to talk.** (Cup ear, then nod head.) **"We are here to find someone to take Judas' place," Peter said.** (Point to the ground next to your feet.) **"Judas handed Jesus over to the soldiers and let us all down.** (Cross arms at wrists in front of self, frown.) **We miss Jesus, but we know that he still wants us to keep sharing the good news.** (Spread arms wide, nod head "Yes.") **The person who replaces Judas should know us and know Jesus.** (Point to self and then point up.) **This person is someone who knows that Jesus came back to life!"** (Clap and cheer!)

The disciples had two choices—a man named Barsabbas and a man named Matthias. (Hold up two fingers, touch the tip of the first finger then the second.) **So they prayed for God to help guide their decision.** (Fold hands, bow head.) **God showed the disciples that Matthias was the right person for the job.** (Pretend to pat an imaginary person on the head, nod head "Yes.")

Tear here for easy use!

Let's talk about the story. Point to the picture on page 500. **What were the disciples trying to do?** (*choose a replacement for Judas*) **How did the disciples ask God for help with their decision?** (*prayed*) **Who did God help the disciples choose?** (*Matthias*) **What do you think the disciples said in their prayers?** Allow kids to respond. **The disciples prayed and God helped them. Talking to God can help us.**

Who Will It Be?

Gather kids at a space where they can work and give a leaflet to each of them. Place the rest of the supplies where everyone can access them. **Look at the picture. Who is talking to the disciples?** (*Peter*) **What are Peter and the disciples trying to decide?** (*who should replace Judas*) **Who should the new person know all about?** (*other disciples, Jesus*) Give kids a rectangle sticker of Jesus to add to their pictures.

What did the disciples do when they wanted help making their decision? (*prayed to God*) Give kids a praying hands sticker to add to their pictures. **Did God help the disciples?** (*yes*) **Who did God say was the right person for the job?** (*Matthias*) Invite kids to circle the person they think might be Matthias. **The disciples prayed and God helped them make a good decision. Talking to God can help us.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
Markers or crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Talking to God

Direct kids' attention to Talking to God on the back of the leaflets. **What are some choices your family makes together?** Allow kids time to respond. **Look at the first picture. This family is trying to decide something. How does your family make decisions about things like how to help a friend or neighbor?** Accept all answers. **Who could help this family make a good decision?** (*God*) Give each kid a folded hands sticker to add to the picture. **Talking to God can help us.**

Point to the next picture. **This family is trying to decide something, too. How does your family make decisions about things like what to watch on television?** Accept all answers. **Who could help this family make a good decision?** (*God*) Give each kid another folded hands sticker to add to the picture. **Talking to God can help us. Let's stand and say a rhyme about talking to God.** Invite kids to stand and repeat the following rhyme and actions, a line at a time.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
None

Staying home or going far. (pretend to drive a vehicle)

It does not matter where we are.

Talking to God can help us. (fold hands)

When it's time for family fun, (jump up and down)

Or when there's work that must be done,

Talking to God can help us. (fold hands)

We All Need Help

Direct kids' attention to We All Need Help on the back of the leaflets. **What are some things you decide at home?** (*what toy to play with, what friend to visit, what to eat for a snack, what clothes to wear*) **The disciples asked God for help to make a good decision. Who could you ask for help?** (*God*) **Like the disciples, we can talk to God by praying. Talking to God can help us. Let's make a prayer pocket to remind us to ask God for help.**

- Help each kid trace her or his hand on a piece of paper and cut it out.
- Assist each kid in taping the paper hand to the space on the leaflet, placing tape along the bottom and sides only. Leave a pocket opening along the top edge large enough to hold an index card.
- Let kids draw or tape pictures of things to ask God about on several index cards.
- Slide the cards into the pocket on the leaflet.

When kids have finished, encourage them to find a partner and take turns drawing and praying about one of their cards. **Praying is a way to talk to God. Talking to God can help us.**

Who Should We Choose?

Gather kids in an open area. Hold up a leaflet, pointing to the seasonal color and icon on the front. **What church season are we in?** (*Easter*) **Jesus came alive again on Easter. In our story, the disciples knew the person they chose to be the new disciple would have to know that Jesus was alive. The person would have to tell others about Jesus. God helped the disciples make the right decision. Talking to God can help us.**

Let's play a game. Pretend we are the disciples and we need God's help to choose the right person.

- Have kids stand in a circle holding hands.
- Choose a volunteer to play the part of Peter and begin in the middle of the circle.
- Teach kids the following song to the tune, "Farmer in the Dell."

Talking to God can help us.

Talking to God can help us.

God helps us choose what's right to do.

Talking to God can help us.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Paper

Kid-safe scissors

Transparent tape

Kid-friendly magazines

Index cards

Markers or crayons

Tear here for easy use!

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

- Direct kids to walk in a circle while singing the song.
- At the end of the song, the kid in the middle chooses someone to join him or her.
- The game continues until all of the kids have been chosen and everyone is in the circle.

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather kids on the floor. **Peter and the disciples had something important to decide. What was it?** (*who should replace Judas*) **Who did the disciples ask for help making their decision?** (*God*) **Who did God say was the person to choose?** (*Matthias*) **Like the disciples, we can pray about our decisions. Talking to God can help us. When you take your leaflet home, have your family read the Faith on the Go! idea on the back. It's something fun to try this week.**

Before we go, let's say good-bye with a rhyme. Repeat the rhyme until all of the kids have been named. Give each kid a hug or high-five following the rhyme.

**Good-bye, [Name],
Our great friend.
God will be with you
Until we meet again!**

Spark Resources
Leaflet

Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand for prayer. **Copy my words and actions as we pray.**

**Dear God,
Thank you for helping me.** (raise hands high)
Remind me to talk to you (fold hands)
About my decisions. (point to head)
Amen.

Be sure to send leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None