

Following the Great Physician (10/8/23)

Main Verses: Mark 2:13-17

Key Verse: Mark 2:17

Takeaway: Jesus, like a spiritual doctor, not only wants to heal our sin-sick hearts, he also wants us to bring his healing to others

Getting Started: Why do you go to the doctor?

READ: Mark 2:13-17 (or have older kids help read)

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Who does Jesus call to follow him?
- Where does Jesus go with his new follower? Why does this surprise the Pharisees?
- How does Jesus respond to them? What does his response mean?

Elementary:

- Who does Jesus call to follow him?
- Where does Jesus go with his new follower? Why does this surprise the Pharisees?
- How does Jesus respond to them?
- What does Jesus' response teach us about how we should respond to other people?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him. Levi got up and followed him.
- Jesus went to Levi's house, and ate with Levi, and other tax collectors and "sinners."
- The Pharisees are surprised that Jesus would eat with those considered to be unclean sinners.
- Jesus tells them that he is like a doctor—He came to heal sinner's hearts so they can share that healing with those around them.

Elementary:

- Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him. Levi got up and followed him.
- Jesus went to Levi's house, and ate with Levi, and other tax collectors and "sinners."
- The Pharisees are surprised that Jesus would eat with those considered to be unclean sinners.
- Jesus models that one can be truly righteous and have a fellowship of mercy at the same time.
- Jesus tells them that he is like a doctor—He came to heal sinner's hearts so they can share that healing with those around them. Sinners knew they needed his healing. The "righteous" Pharisees did not know they needed it as well, and lacked the grace-filled heart Jesus demonstrated.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him for sending Jesus to show us how to live in a way that pleases him. Ask God to help you learn more about him each day and ask him to help you love and help others.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for sending Jesus to heal our sin-sick hearts. Thank God for Jesus' death and resurrection which made a way for us to know God through faith in him. Ask God to help you share Jesus' heart-healing message with those around you.

