

MATTHEW 9:9-13

1. Begin your reading time with a short prayer (an example):
 - a. Dear Jesus, please help us to hear your Word and know you better. Guide our conversation and help us to grow to love and know you better. Amen.
2. Read the Passage together (aloud) once. And then take time to look at it a second time.
3. What stands out to you? Is there a word, phrase... etc. Discuss the words that stand out for both of you. This is a great place to wonder and contemplate what Jesus is saying or doing.
4. Where was Matthew when Jesus called him?
5. What do you know about tax collectors in Jesus' time? (A quick google search of this question will lead you to the correct answer)
6. What was Matthew's response to Jesus' call? What would make him leave so fast?
7. What do you think Matthew's life was like before he dropped everything to follow Jesus? What would it be like afterwards?
8. Take a moment and look up the painting The Calling of St. Matthew by Caravaggio. Carefully examine this painting. What are things you notice about it? Look at things such as lighting, body positioning, etc. Which one of the people in this painting do you most identify? Why?
9. How does Jesus respond to the criticism?
10. Think back to the Caravaggio painting. How would you describe the people (other than Jesus) in terms of needing a physician or a sinner? Do some strike you more as sick than others? Why? What kind of illness is Jesus speaking about here?
11. Imagine you are a part of this scene. You witness the whole thing, and then Jesus turns to you. What does He say to you? How do you respond?
12. How will you follow Jesus (specifically) this week?
13. Close in a short prayer.

