

# WEEK 1: Jesus and the Notorious Sinners

**Big Idea:** Jesus came to help the sick.

## HANGOUT

1. Play a game of freeze tag. Assign one person to be the doctor who can "heal" (unfreeze) people who are tagged.
2. Share some snacks and drinks with your group. Sit together and discuss:
  - What do you do when you're sick?
  - What do the people who care for you do when you're sick?
  - What makes you feel better?
3. Highlight any similarities among the kids' experiences.
4. Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus came to help the sick**. Emphasize that there are many different ways to be sick (e.g., physical, spiritual, emotional, social). If needed, provide examples to help the kids understand what this means.

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at [youtube.com/themeetinghouse](https://youtube.com/themeetinghouse)

## HEAR

5. Let everyone know that in today's story from the Bible Jesus helps some people who are sick socially. Their community rejects them because they're tax collectors.
6. Look up Mark 2:13-17. Read aloud about the meal Jesus shared with some notorious sinners.
7. Discuss:
  - What did Levi do when Jesus said, "Follow me"?
  - What did Jesus do with Levi and the other tax collectors and sinners in this story?
  - How did the Pharisees react when they saw who was sharing a meal with Jesus? Why did they react this way?
  - What did Jesus say to answer the questions of the Pharisees? Why did Jesus want to spend time with sinners?

## HUDDLE

8. Invite the kids to share specific examples of situations in which Jesus could help them (e.g., times when they feel lonely, upset, scared, or anxious). As examples are discussed, ask everyone to consider how Jesus could help in that situation. Focus on the attributes of Jesus that are relevant to each example.
9. Emphasize that we can ask Jesus to help us by praying and asking others to pray for us.
10. Pray, "Thank you, God, for [name each person in your group if possible]. Thank you that you know everything about their lives, and you want to help them just like Jesus helped people here on earth. Thank you for helping the sick, including everyone here, feel better. We love you! Amen."

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