

# JESUS

## Friend of Sinners

5+ lesson pack



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# Introduction

During Jesus' ministry, He called twelve men to be his disciples. One of those men was Matthew. We read about his calling in Matthew 9:9-17. Some of the key points we will study are--

- Mathew left his old life behind to follow Jesus.
- People didn't like the tax collectors, because they stole money.
- Jesus is full of grace and invites us to know Him even though we are not good.
- Jesus calls all men to repent and follow Him.

## Lesson Guide

Ask the child if they remember any of the names of Jesus' disciples? You can use as reference our 'Fishers of Men' lesson from a few weeks ago.

Talk about how Jesus called all different kinds of people to follow Him. Remind them that some of the disciples were fishermen, but Matthew was a tax collector.

Give a simple explanation about taxes. Point out that in Jesus' day, people hated tax collectors. Share how they took more money than they should.

To illustrate, offer the child a handful of objects (candy, buttons, or coins.) Appoint someone the government, your child the taxpayer, and you the tax collector. Point out that the government asked you to take three candies from your child. When the child gives you three, ask if they would be angry if you suddenly asked for six. Explain that many tax collectors did this, and people hated them because of it.

Explain how Jesus always gives us a second chance. Point out that many people were angry that Jesus had time for sinners. Jesus told them that the sick need a doctor and not the well just like sinners need a Saviour and not the perfect. Remind the child that none of us are perfect.

Point out that even though Matthew was a thief and not very nice, Jesus gave him another chance. Share how Matthew left behind his old life to follow Jesus.

Remind your child that Jesus offers grace to sinners. Grace is a free gift that no one can earn. God loves us even when we do bad things and wants to forgive us and give us a fresh start.

Think about sometimes we get angry with people and don't want to give them a second chance. Maybe if someone calls names or steals a toy. Share how grace means forgiving someone even when they don't deserve it.

Share how Matthew wanted all his friends to experience this forgiveness and meet Jesus, so he invited them to his house. Think about ways we can tell our friends about Jesus.

Pray and thank Jesus for offering us grace. Ask Him to help you be more like Him every day.

# Matthew



Matthew was a tax collector.

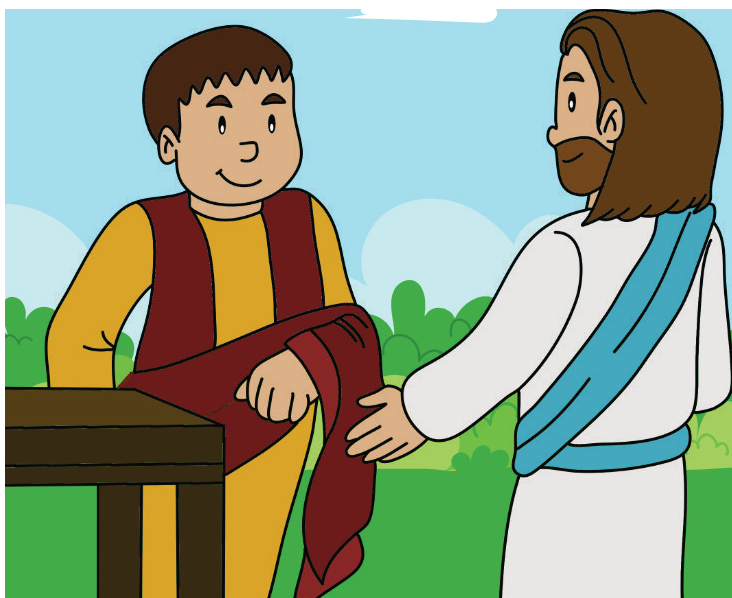
He would sit in a tax collector's booth and take the money that people owed the Romans government.

Many tax collectors were not honest. They would make people give them extra money and then steal it for themselves. People did not like tax collectors.

As Jesus was walking, He looked at Matthew and said to him, "Follow Me!"

Matthew got up, left his tax collector's booth, and followed Jesus.

Matthew invited Jesus to his house.



Matthew invited all his friend to come and meet Jesus.

Many tax collectors and sinners came to sit with Jesus and His disciples and eat with them.



The Pharisees saw all these sinners and tax collectors, and they went to Jesus’s disciples. “Why is your Teacher eating with all these tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus heard what they said and he spoke to the Pharisees. “People who are healthy do not need a doctor. People who are sick need a doctor. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire compassion and not sacrifice.’”

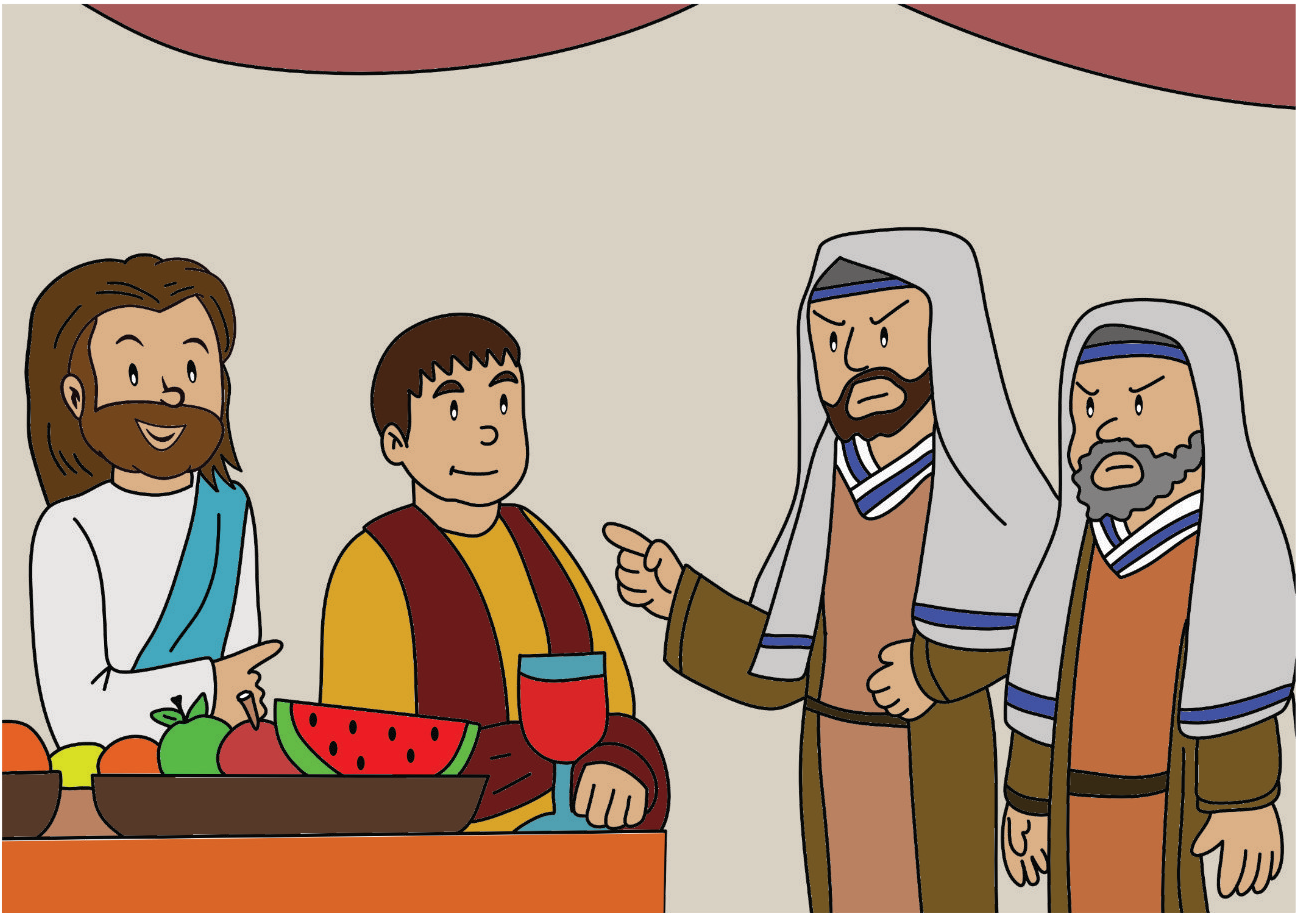
Jesus continued speaking to the Pharisees, “I did not come to call those who were perfect and righteous. I came to call sinners to repentance.”



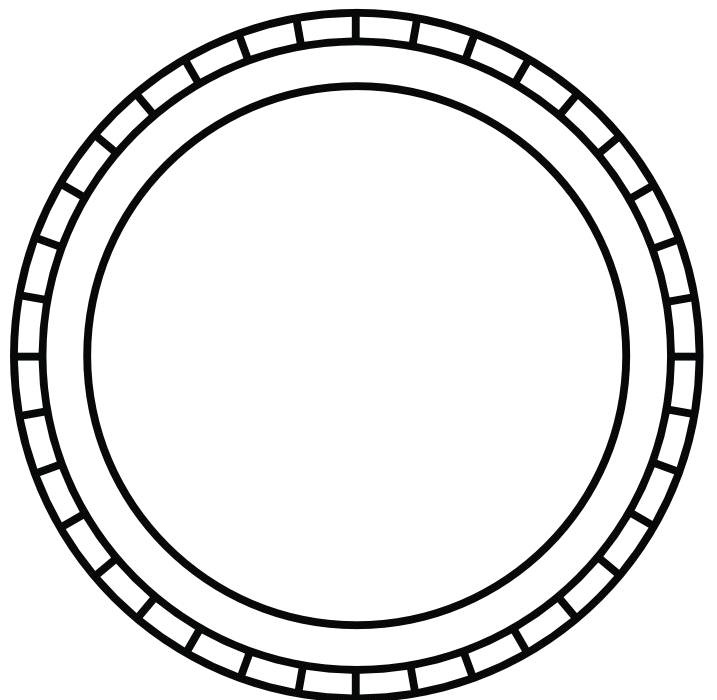
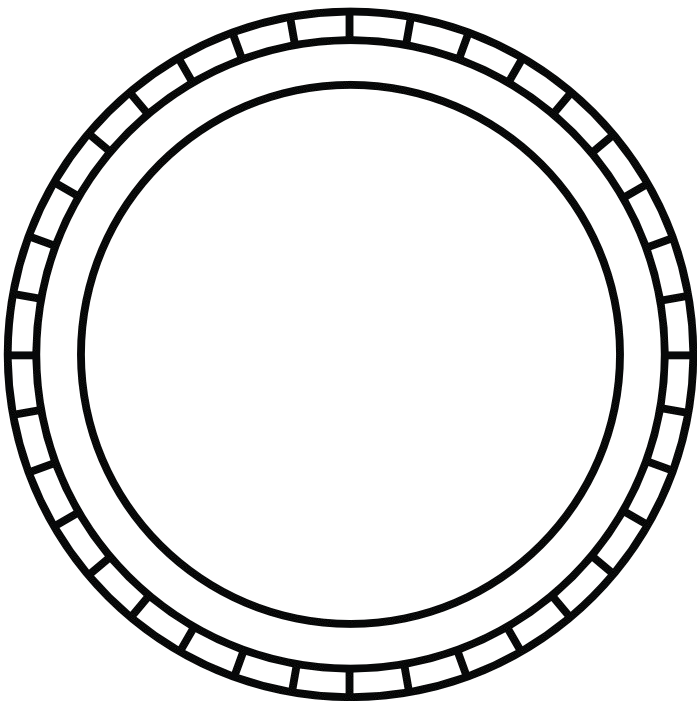
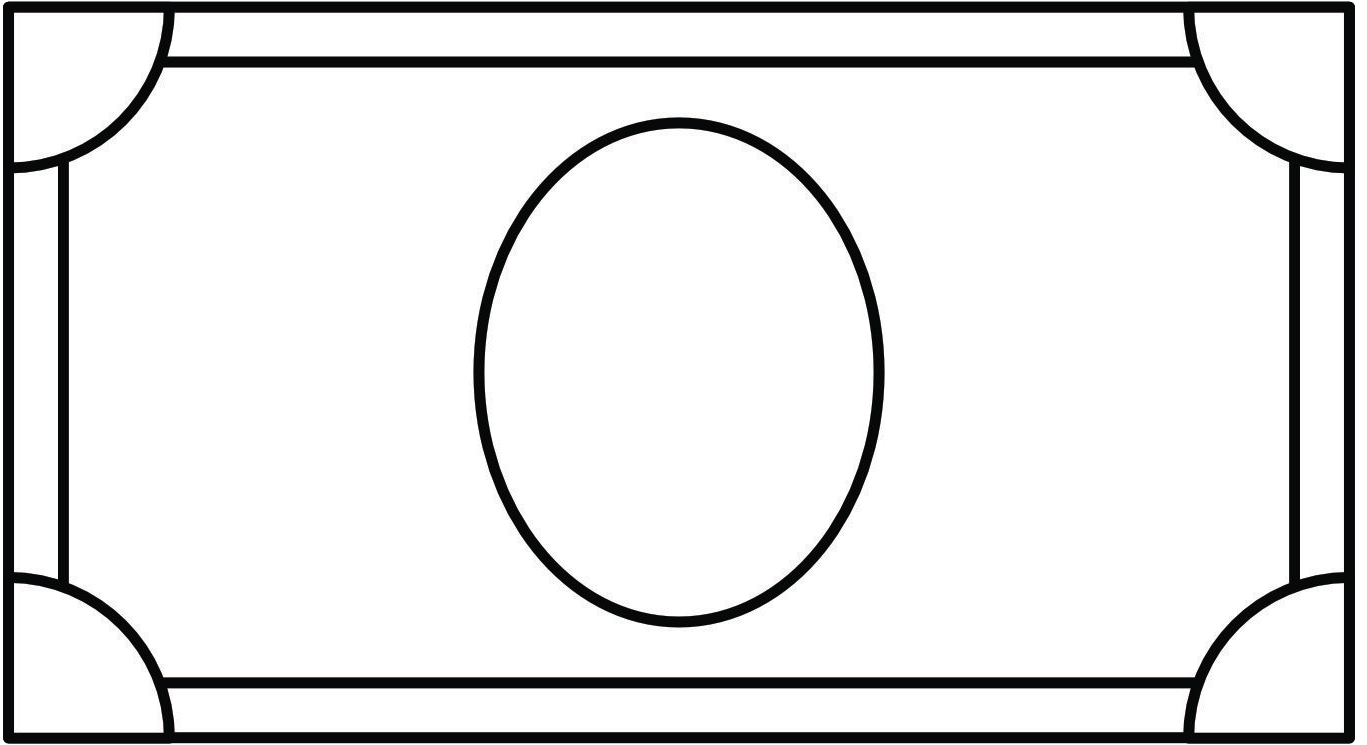
# How much did the people pay Matthew?



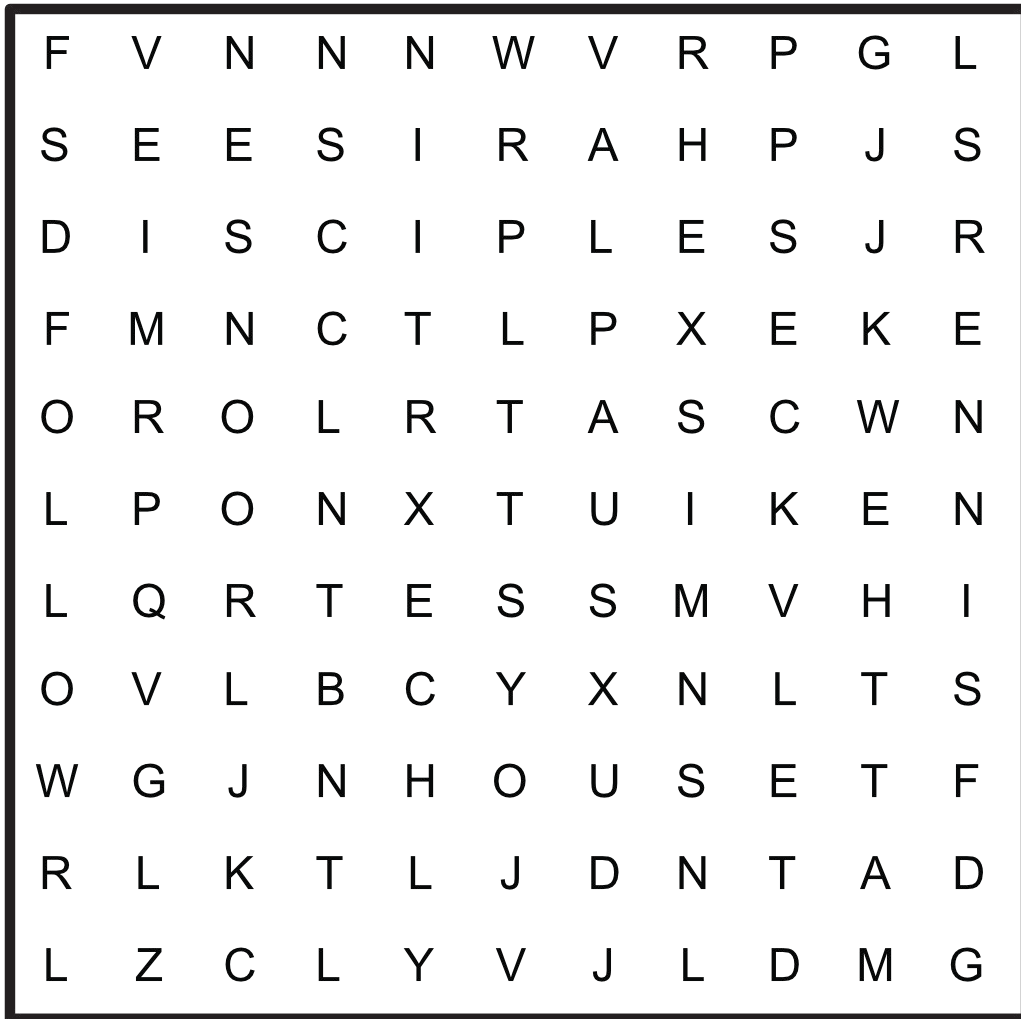
# Find 10 differences



# Design your own money



# Matthew - Word Search



## WORDS

DISCIPLES  
DOCTOR  
FOLLOW  
HOUSE  
JESUS  
MATTHEW  
MONEY  
PHARISEES  
SICK  
SINNERS



# Games and Activities

## Who am I?

Cut out the cards from the next page or write names of jobs onto labels.

Stick a card on the back of each child (so they cannot see the image).

Children should ask question to guess what job they have.

Other children can only answer the question with “Yes” or “No”.



## Follow me

Set up some board game tables. Talk about how Matthew was sat at his table collecting taxes when Jesus called him.

Select a leader. At any point, the leader can shout ‘Follow me’. All children must then immediately stop what they are doing and run to the leader.

The first player to reach the leader can win a small treat.

Talk about how Matthew left everything to follow Jesus.

## Coin Stack

This is a game of speed and accuracy. Place an equal number of coins in front of each child or team.

The leader then shouts a number. E.g., 12.

The teams must then make a stack of 12 coins as fast as possible, and shout “done”.

Leaders should count the coins to make sure the number is correct. The team which does it the fastest wins a point.



# Who am I - game cards



# Follow me Sandal



## What you need:

- Template page (white card for best results)
- Scissor
- Colouring pencils or crayons
- Ribbon
- Sticky tape

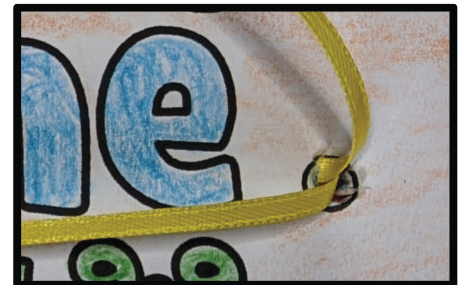
## What to do:



Colour the template page.

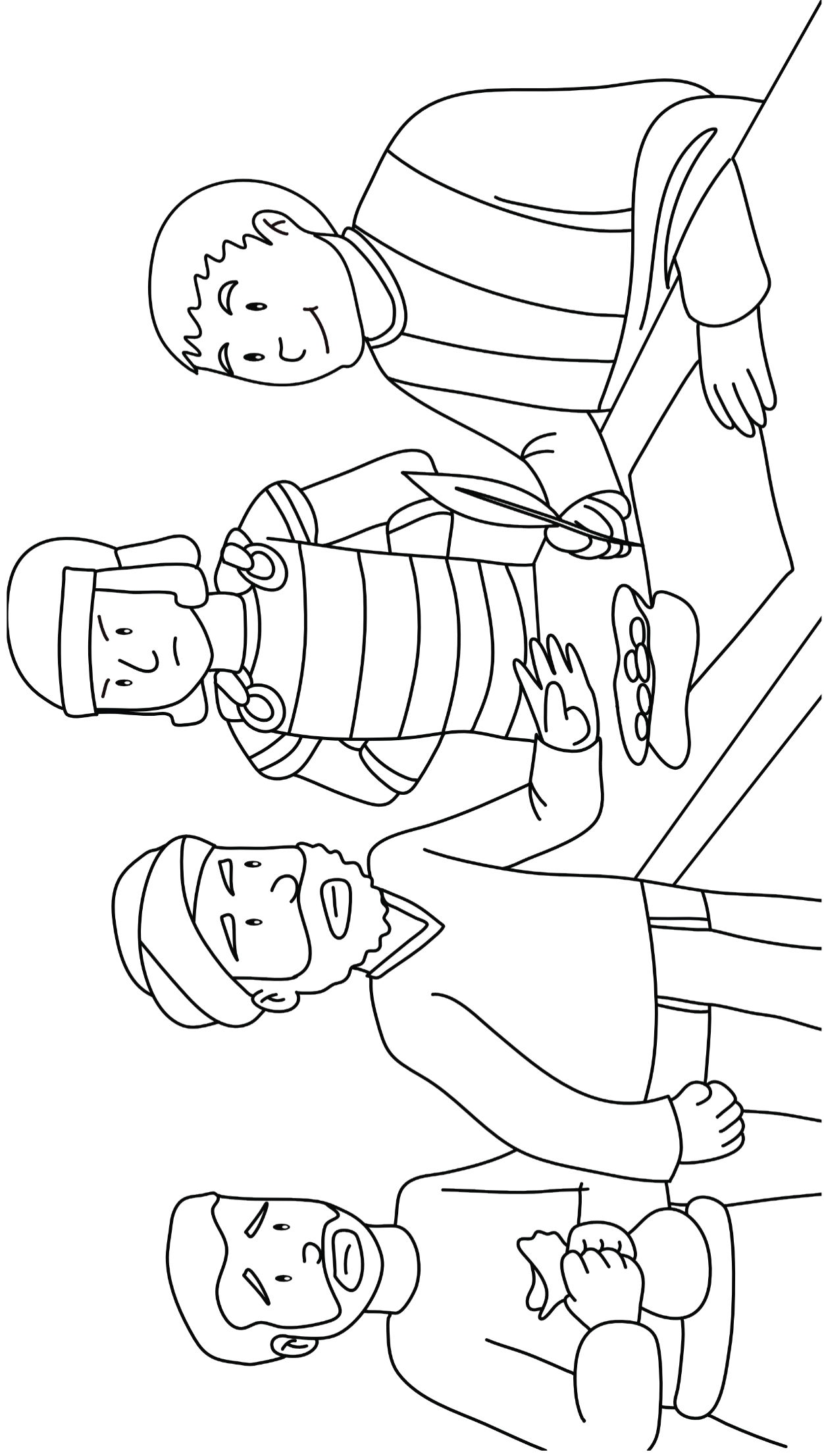


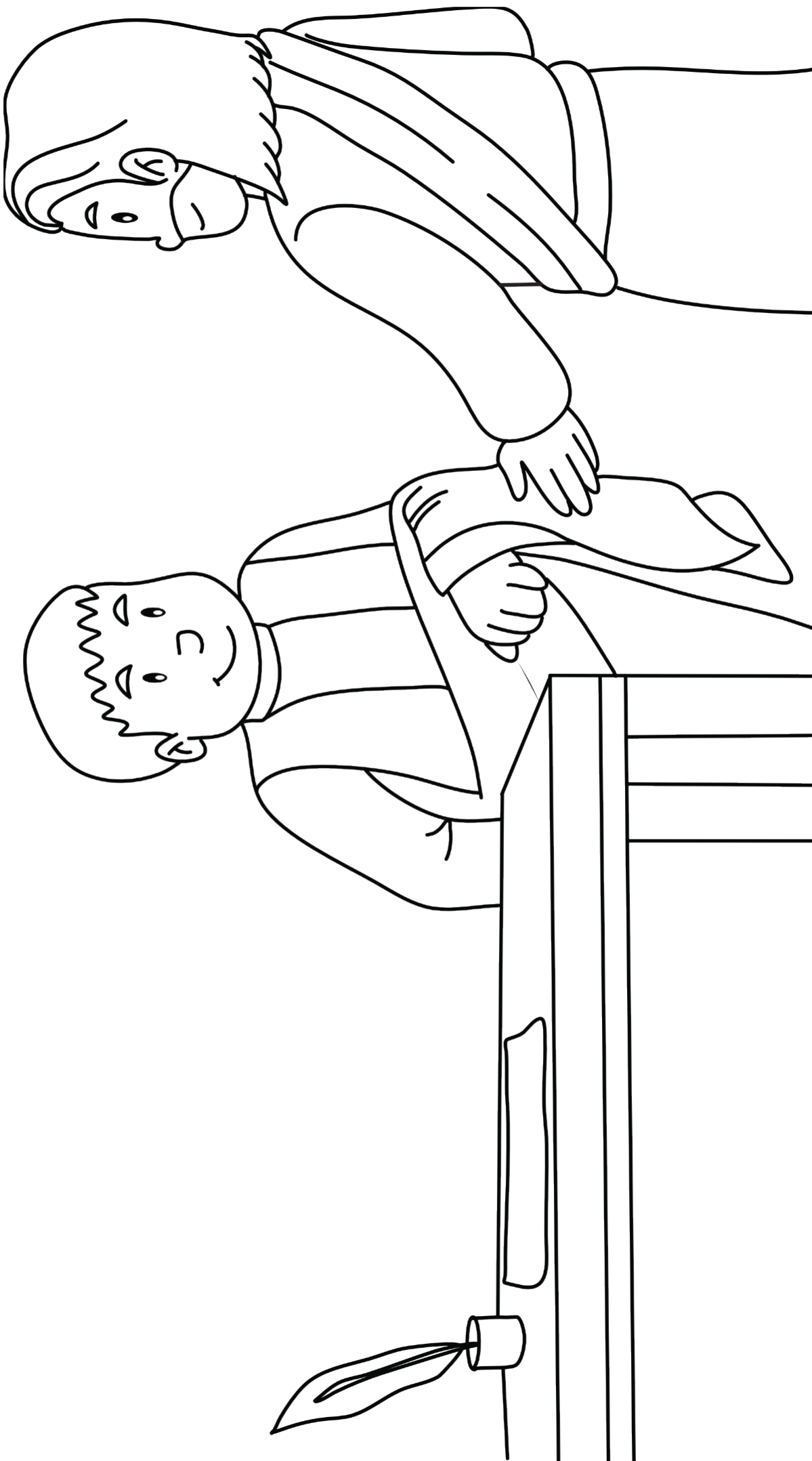
Cut around sandal and make small holes where indicated.

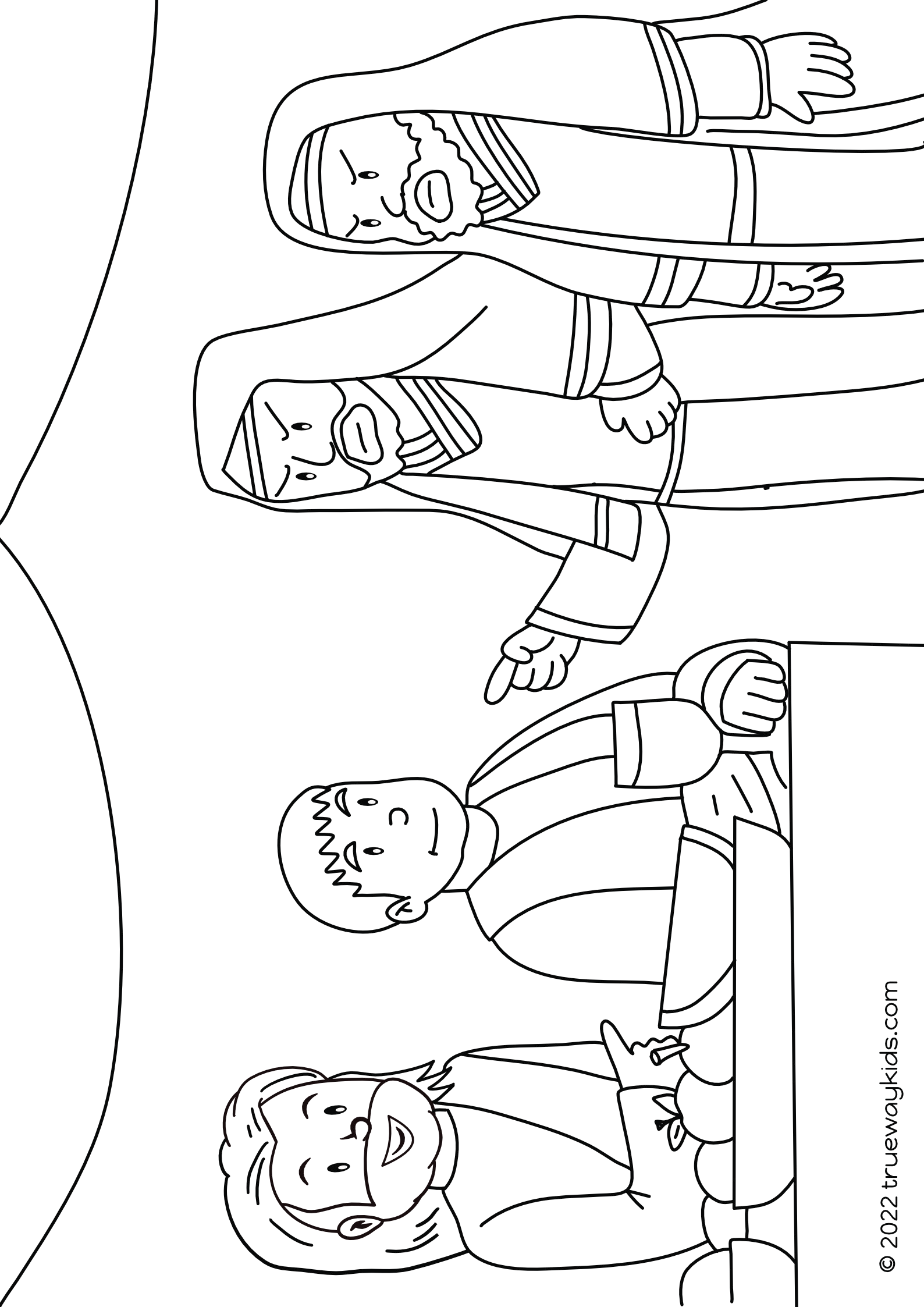


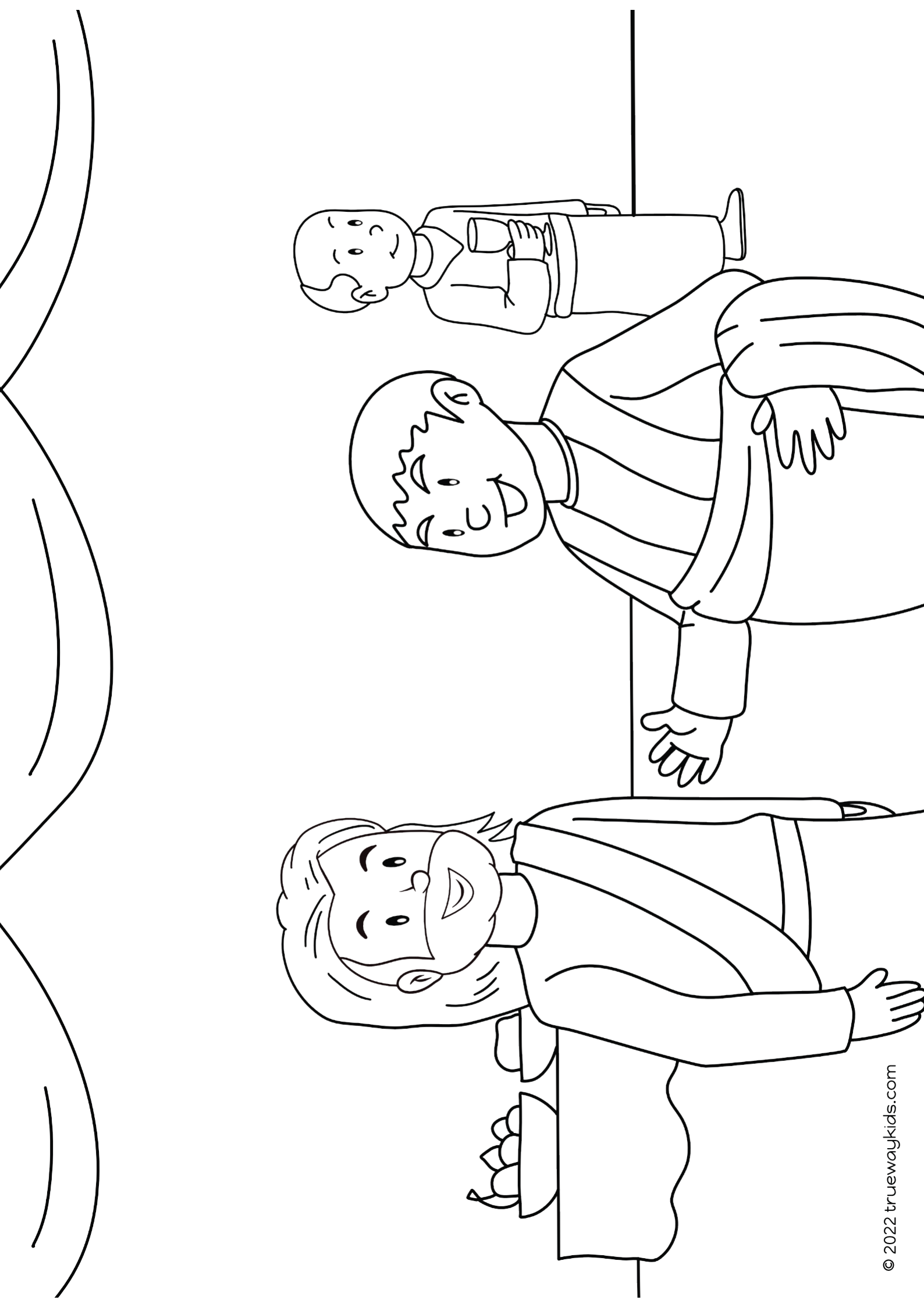
Thread two length of ribbon through holes, tie and tape underneath.

Jesus said  
**FOLLOW ME.**  
Matthew 9:9









# Worship Time

Recommend worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Jesus Friend Of Sinners

<https://youtu.be/odRLLRSvP90>

I Have a Friend in Jesus

<https://youtu.be/65Yk8-yJxEg>

Follow Me

<https://youtu.be/jyHla0hmPfg>



## Prayer Time

Thank God that He forgives us and callus us to follow Him.

Ask Him to help you to tell your friends about Him.

## Next Week

Jesus chooses His disciples

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lessons by email.  
[truewaykids.com/subscribe/](https://truewaykids.com/subscribe/)

