

12 – The Eleventh Day of Christmas Matthew 9:2-4 [Matthew 27:3-5]

Objective: The students will learn that the eleven pipers piping mean the eleven disciples who were faithful to Jesus. We should follow their example, just as people follow pipers. [By considering the story of Judas Iscariot, the students will learn that Jesus can redeem them from any situation, no matter how shameful.]

Introduction:

Today we're up to the eleventh day of Christmas! We've almost finished our song, and Christmas is coming soon.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love is going to give – how many gifts? Right! Eleven! But eleven of what? Eleven pipers piping! What are pipers?... At that time, pipers were leaders. People followed pipers. Let's repeat that. Pipers were leaders. (repeat) People followed them. (repeat)

Step 2: Background:

Eleven is not a common number in the Bible. But *twelve* is very common. There were 12 main families, or 'tribes', of Israel. Jesus had 12 disciples. There are 12 gates to the city in heaven. But eleven... Let's see if we can discover together what eleven means in our song.

Step 3: Question:

What does eleven mean? (there were eleven apostles who did not betray Jesus, who were faithful to Jesus.)

Step 4: Read: Matthew 10:2-4

Step 5: Answer the question

Step 6: Questions? Comments?

Step 7: If there's time, go on...

So, eleven disciples did not betray Jesus. They are the 'eleven pipers piping.' Can you tell me why those eleven disciples are eleven pipers piping? ... Why eleven pipers piping? (because pipers are leaders, people follow them, we should follow the disciples who were loyal to Jesus.)

Sing the song!!!!

I really don't think there will be time for this, but...

These eleven disciples believed in Jesus. Judas did not believe in Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. When he betrayed Jesus, Judas did not think that Jesus would be killed on the cross. Then somebody told Judas that Jesus would be killed on the cross. Let's see what happened next. Look at Matthew 27: 3-5. (students find and read)

What did Judas do? (... hanged himself)

Why did Judas hang himself? Why do people kill themselves? (... expect a variety of answers. Some might mention shame.)

I think Judas was very, very ashamed. He was ashamed because he betrayed Jesus. He did not understand Jesus' forgiveness. Judas was a sinner. Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus could have saved Judas, too. But Judas did not believe in Jesus. So Judas couldn't get rid of his shame. He hanged himself.

It doesn't matter how terribly a person sins. Jesus can turn any situation from bad to good. Jesus can make any situation so good, that you don't care about the past. Of course, we might be hurt and embarrassed, maybe for a long time. But if we follow Jesus, He will take away our hurt, our embarrassment and our shame. He died for our hurt, embarrassment and shame. He himself was hurt, embarrassed and shamed when He was on the cross. He did it for anyone who will believe. He is a wonderful Savior. Can you believe in Him and follow Him?