



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Is Our Friend
Winter Year 1, Lesson 34

Jesus Goes Home with Zacchaeus

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...*We will bring Jesus home.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Bible Event: Luke 19: 1-10

We will help children know:

- The Bible event of Jesus visiting the home of Zacchaeus, the tax collector.
- Because Jesus is our friend, we should bring him home with us.
- Ways to bring Jesus home.

We will help the children feel:




- Eager to share Jesus' love with their families.
- Happy that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend.

We will help the children do:

- Interact with puppet presentation to introduce the Bible Event.
- Participate in the Bible event and listen to a costume character tell about Zacchaeus meeting Jesus.
- Craft: Make a Zacchaeus book.
- Snack: Make a snack for a friend.
- Game: Play "Take Jesus Home"
- Teach Albie the Take Home Point: JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...*We will bring Jesus Home.*
- Sing and Pray.

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 34- 1

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Large Group Opening 	3 4	Puppet Presentation Bible Event	<i>Puppet Presentation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubba puppet with binoculars (made of toilet paper tubes taped together with string around neck) Bible <i>Bible Event:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fake potted tree stepladder male Bible character actor or puppet Bible
Small Group Application 	7 8 9 10	Activity 1: Craft Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Game Prayer Time	<i>Activity 1: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copy of appendix, one per child; cut into quarters and stapled Double stick tape one fake gold coin per child (option: yellow dot stickers or yellow construction paper circles) crayons or markers half sheet construction paper per child stapler Optional: colored dot stickers <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins, cups, water or juice 5 bowls each containing an ingredient for trail mix (fish crackers, cereal, raisins, chocolate chips, mini marshmallows, sunflower seeds, etc.) spoon for each child <i>Activity 3: Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> masking tape bowl with an ingredient from snack
Large Group Wrap-up 	11 11	Singing (Optional) Lesson Review with Puppet Skit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> your choice of music Albie puppet Example of craft Example of snack

Pre-Session Singing (10 minutes)

Purpose: *When all children are in one group singing, it is easy for children arriving later to join the group and immediately get involved.*

Large Group Opening (15 minutes)



Purpose: *The puppet demonstrates today's lesson. The children are introduced to the take home point and experience the Bible event.*

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: *Bubba puppet wearing binoculars around his neck, (two toilet paper tubes taped together with a string to hang from his neck; Presenter holds a Bible*

Presenter: **Boys and girls, let's call Bubba.** *(Children call "Bubba".)*

Bubba: *(Says in a downhearted way):* Hi everyone.

Presenter: **What is wrong, Bubba?**

Bubba: Everything! I made these cool binoculars because I wanted to play with some bigger boys in my neighborhood.

Presenter: **What went wrong?**

Bubba: The big boys were going to climb a tree and use their new binoculars to spy on people.

Presenter: **That sounds like fun.**

Bubba: I know! That's why I wanted to do it to. They would not let me climb the tree with them.

Presenter: **Why?**

Bubba: They said I was too short! They told me to go home. They were not very friendly.

Presenter: **Bubba, you might be surprised, but this reminds me of our Bible event today.**

Bubba: Someone made binoculars and tried to climb a tree to spy on people?

Presenter: **Not exactly. In the Bible a man named Zacchaeus was very short.**

Bubba: As short as me?

Presenter: Maybe. He wanted to see Jesus, but there were too many people in his way.

Bubba: Did he use his binoculars to see Jesus?

Presenter: No. He climbed a tree to see Jesus. He did not think Jesus would be his friend because the man had done some bad things.

Bubba: But Jesus wants to be everyone's friend.

Presenter: That's right Bubba, Jesus is our friend. You can remember that when people are mean to you or don't like you. Jesus is always in your heart.

Bubba: That is good to know.

Presenter: Would you like to learn more about that Bible event?

Bubba: Yes.

Presenter: First, let's practice the take home point. I'll say the first part and you say the second part.

Bubba: OK

Presenter: *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND... now you say, "We will bring Jesus home."

Bubba: We will bring Jesus home.

Presenter: Do you think you can teach the boys and girls?

Bubba: Sure.

Presenter: OK everybody, *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...

Bubba: (and everyone): We will bring Jesus home.

Presenter: Wonderful. Say "goodbye" Bubba.

Bubba: Bye everyone!

Bible Event: A Visit from a Costumed Character

Supplies: fake potted tree; stepladder; male Bible character in costume or a puppet

Presenter holds the Bible

Zacchaeus Goes Home with Jesus

Zacchaeus will be speaking from the stepladder with the tree directly in front of him. He will look as if he is partially in a tree.

Option is to have Zacchaeus presented as a puppet that is speaking from the tree. In this case, the puppeteer needs to be concealed or dressed in black so he is not noticed.

Presenter: Here in the Bible is an event about a short man named Zacchaeus climbing a tree to try to see Jesus. He didn't think Jesus would want to be his friend because he had cheated so many people out of their money. But Jesus had other plans. I wonder what they were. Let's put on our imagination hats as we meet someone pretending to be Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus: Hello. My name is Zacchaeus. I lived a long time ago when Jesus was alive.

I am a tax collector. Tax collectors tell people, "You must give your money to the king. I'll take your money and give it to the king for you."

People did not like to give me their money. They did not like the king. They were Jews and the king was Roman. They didn't like giving the king their money.

Worst of all, they thought I cheated them. They thought I collected too much money for the king and kept some for myself. And do you know what? They were right! I did cheat them.

I was stealing money from them because I thought money was the most important thing in the whole world. What do you think they thought of me? Do you think they liked me? No! Most of the people hated me. I pretended not to care because I had lots of money.

Even though I had lots of money, I was still sad inside. I needed someone who would love me and accept me. I needed someone who would help me change. And one day I met him...

It was Jesus! Jesus was coming to our village and everyone was excited. I had never met him, but I had heard many wonderful things about him. He could do miracles and cure sick people. He even made crippled people walk again.

Jesus talked all about God's love. I wondered if he would like me. I thought to myself, "He probably won't like me when he finds out I am a tax collector. Nobody likes tax collectors."

I decided to see Jesus. Now, I am very, very short and there was a great crowd of people gathered to watch Jesus come into our town. I didn't want to be in that crowd. I couldn't see over all those people.

I saw a tree right by the road where Jesus would come. I climbed up in the tree and watched and waited and watched.

Soon Jesus came walking down the road with crowds of people. He walked right past me and then he stopped. He looked up in the tree and guess what. He knew my name!

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down from the tree. I will be your friend. Let's go to your house and eat dinner together."

He said this in a kind way. He really did want to be my friend. But maybe he didn't know I was a tax collector. Oh no, if he found that out, I'm sure he wouldn't like me.

So, we went to my house to eat dinner. People all around were saying, "Jesus, don't you know? That's Zacchaeus the tax collector. Everybody hates him because he steals money from us."

Jesus didn't seem to mind at all. Instead, Jesus just looked at me and smiled.

That night when we had dinner together, Jesus talked to me about God's kingdom. He explained that God loved me and wanted me to serve him and not cheat people. Jesus said that it's never too late to turn back to God. He even explained that he was the Savior sent by God to help all of us be friends with God. Then he said, "I forgive you."

Well, that did it! I was so happy I said, "Jesus, I'm changing right now. Everyone I cheated, I'm going to give him back what I stole, plus give him more money. I want to follow God's way from now on. And it's all because of you, Jesus. I brought you home with me and you changed my life."

Boys and girls, maybe you can remember that, too. Jesus is God's Son and he's the Savior. ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – We will bring Jesus home.**

Zacchaeus walks off stage.

Boys and girls, let's practice the take home point together. I will say the first part and you repeat the last part. ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND..We will bring Jesus home.**

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.

Small Group Application (30 minutes)



Purpose: *Children will break into small groups. Smaller groups enable children to develop closer relationships with adults and peers in the church. In your small groups you will reinforce the take home point with a fun hands-on activity and discuss the Bible event. Review questions help kids apply the take home point to their daily lives.*

Activity 1: Craft: Zacchaeus Book

Supplies: *Copies of Appendix A one per child, cut in quarters and stapled together at top left corner; half sheet of construction paper per child; stapler; double stick tape and one fake gold coin per child (option: several yellow dot stickers or yellow construction paper circles); markers or crayons; (option dot stickers)*

Today we are going to make a Zacchaeus Book. It will remind us that we can take home our friend Jesus, no matter what other people think. Give each child a stapled book.

On page one, take this gold coin and tape it to the page. (If using the option of yellow dots, have the children put two or three of them on the page.)

On page two, draw a lot of smiley faces for the crowd waiting to see Jesus. (Or use option of dot stickers and have children draw smiley faces on them.)

On page 3, draw Zacchaeus in the tree. You can draw a stick figure if you want.

On page 4, draw stick figures of Jesus and Zacchaeus walking towards Zacchaeus' house.

Now take this half sheet of construction paper and fold it in half to be a cover for your book. I will staple it (in the upper left corner) and you can write your name on the front and decorate it however you want.

Review the Bible Event.

Why did Zacchaeus climb into the tree? (*He wanted to see Jesus and he was too short to see over the people.*)

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...*We will bring Jesus home.*

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.**

Activity 2: Snack: Friend Snack

Supplies: napkins, cups, water or juice; spoon for each child; 5 small bowls with trail mix ingredients of your choice (fish crackers, cereal, raisins, chocolate chips, mini marshmallows, sunflower seeds, etc.)

*****CAUTION:** *Be aware of food allergies children may have, before you give them anything to eat.*

Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Today we are going to make a snack that you might serve to a friend if they came home with you. Everyone will make a snack for the person next to them. (Make sure all children are paired up, using Shepherd, if necessary.) **This will remind us that Zacchaeus took Jesus home.** Give each child a napkin and a spoon.

Ask the person next to you to show you one of the ingredients he would like in his snack. Use your spoon to put a spoonful of that on his napkin. Now he will do the same thing for you. Continue until you each have 4 ingredients in your napkin. Now you can eat your friendly snack.

Review the Bible event.

How did Jesus show Zacchaeus he was his friend? *(He went to Zacchaeus' home to eat; he forgave him for his sins.)*

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...We will bring Jesus home.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.**

Activity 3: Game: Take Jesus Home

Supplies: masking tape; bowl with food from snack

Before class, tape a house shape on the floor, large enough to hold your class (if class is really large, make two houses and divide children into four teams.) Put bowl of snack food in front part of house.

Divide children into two teams on opposite side of room from house shape on floor. They will be in lines next to each other.

Now this group (point to one group) **will be Zacchaeus and this group** (point to other group) **will be Jesus. Zacchaeus will link arms with the Jesus next to him. Now walk with Jesus to your home on the other side of the room. When you get there, each of you will take two pieces of food from the bowl and eat it. If you do not like the food, pretend to eat it. Then you will move to the back of the house and sit down. The next Zacchaeus/Jesus will do the same thing.** Continue until all pairs have gone into the house. If you have time, have children do it again, changing roles.

Review the Bible event.

How does Jesus show us he is our friend? *(He forgives us, he died on the cross for us, gives us people to love us, keeps us safe, etc.)*

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...We will bring Jesus home.

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.

Prayer Time:

How can we bring Jesus home with us? *(Sing songs about Jesus, look at Bible picture books, pray, share the Bible events with family, etc.)*

Ask children for prayer requests and pray as a group for child's request.

Let's practice the take home point. *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...We will bring Jesus home.

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. *(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.**

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Large Group Wrap-Up (10 minutes)



Purpose: *The crazy bird puppet, Albie, struggles with learning the take home point. We try to teach him the take home point, but each time he confuses words or concepts. After three attempts, he finally gets it right.*

Singing: (Optional, two or three songs, as time allows)

Supplies: *Albie the puppet, sample of today's craft and snack.*

Lesson Review with Puppet Skit

Presenter shows Albie an example of each of the Activities done in small group. Then the kids attempt to teach Albie the take home point.

Presenter: We want to welcome all our guests today and thank them for coming. (If you give guests a gift for coming, do it now.)

Presenter: Albie, look at the craft the children made today. It is a Zacchaeus Book. The children are going to teach you our take home point. Listen carefully.

Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

...We will bring Jesus home.

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

I want a car with lots of shiny chrome!



Presenter: Albie, look at the snack we ate. We made it for each other. Now listen carefully to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

...We will bring Jesus home.

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

I'm thinking of traveling to Rome.

Presenter: Albie, today we played a game called "Take Jesus Home". Now, please listen closely to the take home point.

Presenter: (says to kids):

Kids say:

Presenter: (says to Albie):

Albie says:

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

...We will bring Jesus home.

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

I think I'll cover myself with shaving foam!

Presenter says:

"Albie, listen one last time.

***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...**

Kids response:
Albie's response:

...We will bring Jesus home.
(Warms up his singing voice with "Mee, mee, mee, mee..." and sings in a silly dramatic opera-like voice)
***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND...We will bring Jesus home.**

Presenter says to Albie: Good job, Albie!

Albie can leave stage or join in the prayer and song.

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God,
We love you.
Jesus is our friend.
We will bring Jesus home.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

Song:

Let's sing our song of the week. (To the tune of *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*)
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JE-SUS IS our FRIEND
WE will BRING him HOME.
BRING him, BRING him, BRING him, BRING him.
WE will BRING him HOME.

Goodbye boys and girls. Remember that God loves you and he wants you to bring your friend Jesus home with you.

1.

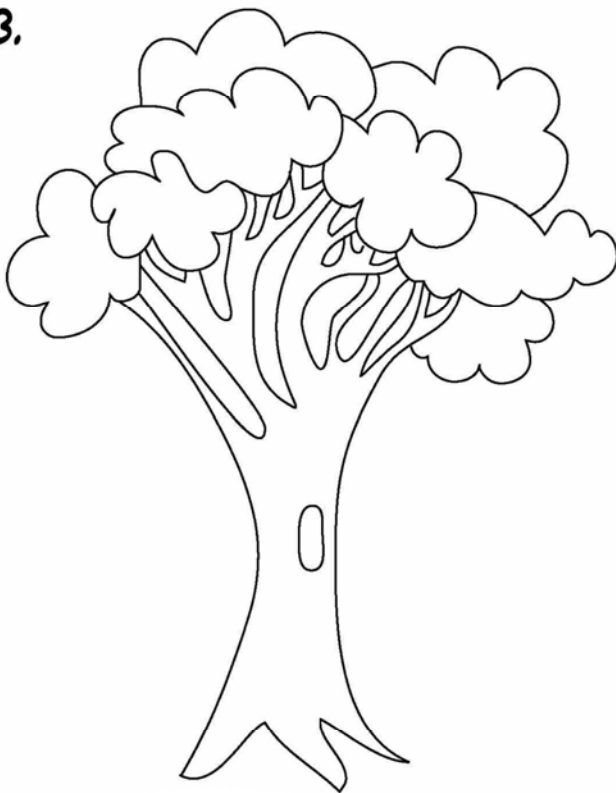
2.

Zacchaeus stole money.

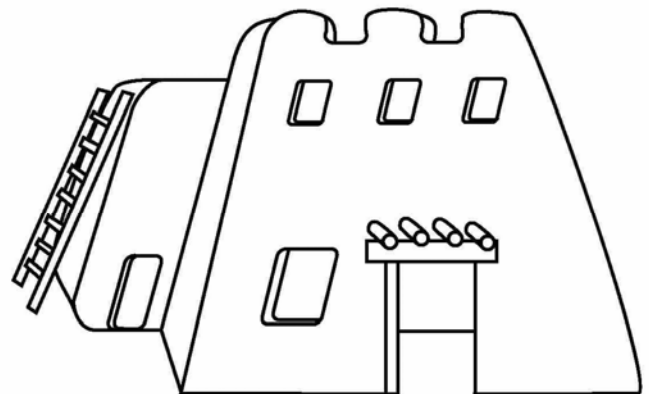
Jesus is coming to town.

3.

4.



Zacchaeus climbed a tree
to see Jesus.



Zacchaeus took Jesus home. I will
bring Jesus home, too.