



Date: _____

Series: Zacchaeus
Spring Year 1, Lesson 57

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Take Home Point: *Jesus wants to be our friend.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Luke 19:1-10

We will help children know:

- Many people did not like Zacchaeus because he took their money.
- Jesus loves everyone, even people no one else loves.
- Jesus is our friend.




We will help the children feel:

- Happy that Jesus wants to be our friend.
- Secure in knowing that Jesus is always with us.
- Excited that everyone is loved.

We will help the children do:

- Watch a puppet presentation that introduces the Bible Event.
- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat cookies that remind us of coins.
- Decorate two flowers: one to keep and one to give to a friend.
- Play a game called *Toss the Coins*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the leaning of today's Take Home Point: ***Jesus wants to be our friend.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of toys
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubba puppet • snack in sandwich bag, ziploc style
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 8 9 10	Activity 1: Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Game	<p><i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Mantz Simon's Big Book, <i>Too Tall, Too Small</i>, published by Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org) • <i>option</i>: a children's picture Bible <p><i>Activity 2: Snack</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round cookies • napkins, cups and water <p><i>Activity 3: Craft</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper baking cups (muffin liners), two per child • craft sticks, two per child • tape • stickers • crayons or washable markers • label that says: <i>*Jesus wants to be our friend.</i> <p><i>Activity 4: Game</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plastic bin or bowl • six real or pretend coins • masking tape
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review the Take Home Point Pray Sing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your choice of music • craft example from Activity 3

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys, such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: The opening puppet presentation will be an attention grabber that helps gather the children. This is not an extensive presentation but a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and the Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Puppet Presentation:

Bubba Learns that Jesus Is Our Friend

Supplies: today's snack in a sandwich baggie, tape it to Bubba's hand

Presenter: Kids, will you help me call Bubba?

Kids call Bubba. **Bubba... Bubba... Bubba**. Bubba enters with the snack on his hand.

Presenter: Oh, hi, Bubba. What do you have in your hand?

Bubba: I've got my special snack and I'm saving it.

Presenter: What are you saving it for?

Bubba: I'm saving it for my friend. My friend is coming home with me after church today.

Presenter: Wow, that would be a special friend.

Bubba: We're going to play and I'm going to share my snack with him.

Presenter: Since he is coming over to your house, it sounds like he is a VERY special friend.

Bubba: We are having a snack together. I think we'll even play with my elephant.

Presenter: You and your elephant. Did you know that Jesus wants to be a special friend like that? We will hear about that when we talk about Zacchaeus in today's Bible Event. Can I tell you about it?

Bubba: Sure.

Presenter: Zacchaeus was a short man who didn't have many friends. He took money from people. You wouldn't like it if someone took your money, would you?

Bubba: No, that's mean. Did anyone like him?

Presenter: The people of the town didn't like him. But Zacchaeus was excited when he heard Jesus was coming to his town. He wanted to see Jesus. Because he was short, he could not see over all the people. So he climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus saw him, do you know what he said?

Bubba: Come down out of that tree.

Presenter: That's right. Then he said, "I will go to your house today." Just like when a friend goes to someone's house. Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus wanted to be a friend and come to his house.

Bubba: Did they share a snack together?

Presenter: They sure did. After that, Zacchaeus was so much different. He finally knew that Jesus was his friend. He quit taking money from people and gave their money back to them.

Bubba: That's wonderful.

Presenter: It's especially wonderful to remember that Jesus wants to be *our* friend. That's our Take Home Point. Can you repeat it after me? Jesus wants to be our friend.

Bubba: Jesus wants to be our friend.

Presenter: Good job, Bubba. Kids, let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus wants to be our friend. *Jesus wants to be our friend.*

Now, Bubba, will you help me with our song?

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**JE-sus WANTS to BE our FRIEND,
BE our FRIEND, BE our FRIEND.
JE-sus WANTS to BE our FRIEND,
SHORT, TALL or SMALL.**

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We are so happy. We are so happy.
Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for two-year-olds should be one to five or fewer. Divide into groups of five with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of ten. The ratio will be maintained at one to five.

Activity 1: Bible Event

Supplies: Big Book: *Too Tall, Too Small*, by Mary Mantz Simon. Order from Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). Option: use a children's picture Bible.

Part One: Read the Bible Event

Read the Big Book: *Too Tall, Too Small*, by Mary Mantz Simon or children's picture Bible.

Part Two: Act Out the Bible Event

Supplies: Children's' Picture Bible

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them too.

Jesus goes to Jericho.

- One day Jesus was traveling to a town called Jericho. Let's walk in place.
- Many people wanted to see Jesus. There were so many people that it was really hard to see him. Let's stand on our tiptoes and pretend we are trying to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus.

- In Jericho lived a very, very short man. Show me how you can get really small.
- The short man's name was Zacchaeus and he was very rich. He was rich because he stole money from people who were paying their taxes. No one liked Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus heard that Jesus loves everyone. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.

- Zacchaeus stood with all the other people trying to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was so short he could not see Jesus. Then Zacchaeus had a great idea. He ran ahead of all the other people and stopped at a big tree. Let's run like Zacchaeus did. Run a short distance and then back to your places.
- Zacchaeus' great idea was to climb a sycamore tree so he could be high enough to see Jesus. Let's pretend to climb a tree.
- Soon Jesus came walking down the road surrounded by many people. When he came to the tree Zacchaeus was in, he stopped. Let's pretend to walk and stop.

Jesus wants to be Zacchaeus' friend.

- Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus in the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down now. I must stay at your house today." Let's say, "Zacchaeus, come down now!"
- Zacchaeus was so surprised that Jesus knew his name. Show me a surprised face.
- Zacchaeus came down the tree right away. He wondered if Jesus wanted to be his friend.
- All the people who saw Jesus talk to Zacchaeus did not think that Jesus should be Zacchaeus' friend. They did not like Zacchaeus. They did not think that anyone would want to be his friend. Let's make an unfriendly face.

Jesus shares a meal with Zacchaeus.

- Jesus told Zacchaeus that he wanted to go to his house. This meant Jesus wanted to be his friend. Zacchaeus was very happy—so happy he wanted to skip down the road. Let's skip.
- When they arrived at Zacchaeus' house, they had a dinner together. Let's pretend to eat food.
- Let's take a drink.
- Friends like to have a meal together.

Zacchaeus gives back money that he took.

- Zacchaeus wanted to change and be more like Jesus. He no longer wanted to take other people's money. Now he wanted to share what he had. He told Jesus he would give back all the money he stole. Pretend to give money to someone near you.
- Zacchaeus was very happy that Jesus was his friend.

Part Three: Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We are so happy. We are so happy.
Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies: any round cookie; napkins, cups and water

Boys and girls, today we are learning about how Jesus wanted to be Zacchaeus' friend. That surprised Zacchaeus because many people did not like him. Before we have our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer.

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We are so happy. We are so happy.
Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES BEFORE YOU GIVE THE CHILDREN ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Pass out a napkin, cup of water and a couple of cookies or a snack of your choice.

Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house where they had a meal together. This was one way Jesus showed Zacchaeus that he wanted to be his friend. Are we friends here? Yes. Let's eat our snack together. It will remind us that Jesus wants to be our friend.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

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Activity 3: Craft

Supplies:

- *paper baking cups (muffin liners), two per child*
- *two craft sticks per child*
- *tape*
- *stickers*
- *crayons or washable markers*
- *label that says Jesus wants to be our friend.*

Before class starts, flatten the baking cup and tape the stick to it so it looks like a flower on a stem. Put the sticker label on the back of the stick, covering the tape.

Boys and girls, today, we are going to make two crafts—one to keep and one to share with a friend. Friends are people you love and want to do nice things for. I want you to decorate these two flowers with stickers and then color them. When you go home, keep one flower for yourself and share the other flower with a friend.

Let children decorate the flowers how they wish.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

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JE-sus WANTS to BE our FRIEND,
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
We love you. We love you.
We are so happy. We are so happy.
Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Learning Game

Supplies: plastic bin or bowl; six real or pretend coins; masking tape

Friends like to do things together. Zacchaeus liked being Jesus' friend. He liked it so much, he gave back money that he had taken from others. Boys and girls, today we are going to play a game called *Toss the Coins*. You will all get a turn trying to toss these coins in the bowl. You will have a friend who will pick up the coins that don't make it in the bowl. They will put the dropped coins in the bowl for you.

CAUTION NOTE: SUPERVISE CLOSELY! Make sure children do not put the coins in their mouths, noses or ears.

Before class have a piece of masking tape on the floor about three feet from the bowl. Give the coins to one child at a time so you can keep track of them. Child will stand on line and attempt to toss the coins into the bowl. Another child will be the special friend. This child will pick up any missed coin and put in the bowl. If needed, move bowl closer or farther away to adjust difficulty.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Jesus wants to be our friend. Jesus wants to be our friend.

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*

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Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter shows the craft and compliments the children for doing a wonderful job. He/she reviews the Take Home Point: ***Jesus wants to be our friend.**

Lesson Prayer:

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

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Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
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Lesson Song:

Song: to the tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Lead them in three songs on a tape or CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out the God Talk at Home.

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