



Date: _____
Series: Jesus and the Lost
Winter Year 2, Lesson 37

Zacchaeus

Take Home Point: *Jesus loves everyone.

*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:

- Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.
- Jesus loves everyone, no matter what they have done.




We will help children feel:

- Happy that Jesus loves everyone.
- Excited that everyone is loved.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that reminds us of money.
- Make a craft of coin rubbings and stamping.
- Play a learning game called *Tall or Short?* and a movement game called *Tall or Small?*
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: ***Jesus loves everyone.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubba puppet
	4	Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stuffed Elephant children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	5	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
	8	Activity 2: Snack	<i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water graham crackers tube of any color frosting with a small tip
	9	Activity 3: Craft	<i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plain paper coins soft lead pencils (#2) bingo daubers
	10	Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one hula hoop two bean bags masking tape
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review Lesson and Take Home Point	
	12	Pray	
	12	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice

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: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and 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.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies:

- children's picture Bible

Bubba Finds a Friend

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call out Bubba.

Kids call out **Bubba, Bubba, Bubba** Bubba enters.

Presenter: Hi Bubba, how are you today?

Bubba: I'm sad.

Presenter: Why are you sad?

Bubba: No one wants to be my friend.

Presenter: What makes you say that?

Bubba: There were some older boys and girls I wanted to play with but they wouldn't let me play. They hurt my feelings.

Presenter: I'm sorry, Bubba.

Bubba: They even made fun of my elephant. They called me a baby.

Presenter: That was mean; they shouldn't do that. But Bubba, I'm still your friend and these boys and girls are still your friends. Aren't you, boys and girls? (Wait for a response) Best of all Bubba, Jesus is your friend and loves you very much. Today we are going to learn about a man named Zacchaeus. People didn't like him very much at all. Some people even made fun of him.

Bubba: I know how he feels.

Presenter: But Jesus did not make fun of him. Jesus said, "I'll be your friend." Jesus loves everyone.

Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible.

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Presenter: Bubba, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.
EV-ry ONE. EV-ry ONE.
JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.
JE-sus LOVES us.

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

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You love everyone. You love everyone.
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 three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six 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 up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible
- Option: play money (can order from: www.gospelmagic.com)

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Introduction

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 travels to Jericho.

- One day Jesus traveled to the town of Jericho to preach and teach. Let's pretend we are walking.
- There was a big crowd of people all around him. They wanted to listen to Jesus. Put your hand behind your ear to show you are listening.
- So many people were around Jesus that it was really hard to see him.

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus.

- Zacchaeus was a very short man. He wanted to listen to Jesus, too. But he could not even see Jesus. He was too short and the crowd was too big. Stand on your tiptoes and pretend to try to see Jesus.
- When the people in the crowd saw Zacchaeus, they looked at him and frowned. Let's make a frowning face.
- The people did not like Zacchaeus because he stole money from them. He was a tax collector and took more money than he should have. The people in the crowd were not his friends at all. The people knew Jesus was coming and they crowded around the road. Let's all crowd around me.

Jesus comes down the road.

- Jesus was coming. Zacchaeus still could not see him. He stood on his tiptoes. Let's stand on our tiptoes.
- He jumped up and down. Let's jump up and down.
- He even tried to sit on someone's shoulders! That did not work either. Zacchaeus was just too short. He could not hear or see Jesus.

Zacchaeus climbs a tree.

- Then Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran down the road ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree. Let's pretend to climb a tree.
- He sat there waiting for Jesus. He could not wait to see Jesus. He heard that Jesus loves everyone. But Zacchaeus did not think that Jesus could love him. He had done many bad things.

Jesus sees Zacchaeus.

- Jesus came walking by the tree. Let's pretend to walk.
- Jesus stopped. Let's stop.
- Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus in the tree and said, "Zacchaeus." Let's look up and say "Zacchaeus".
- "Come down now. I would like to be your friend. Let's go to your house right now." Zacchaeus was so surprised that Jesus would want to be his friend. Zacchaeus hurried down the tree. Let's climb down the tree.
- They walked to Zacchaeus' house. Let's walk with Jesus.
- They sat down at the table and ate supper. Let's sit down and pretend to eat.
- Jesus showed Zacchaeus that he was his friend by eating supper with him.

People don't like Jesus talking to Zacchaeus.

- When the people in the crowd followed Jesus to Zacchaeus' house, they were surprised. Show me your surprised face.
- Why would Jesus be friends with Zacchaeus? They thought that Zacchaeus was a bad person. They thought that no one should be nice to Zacchaeus. Some of them were angry. Let's cross our arms and pout.

Jesus loves everyone.

- Then Jesus came out and talked to them. He told them that he loves everyone. Let's give ourselves a hug.

- He said Zacchaeus was his friend. The reason he came was to help people like Zacchaeus. When he is their friend, he can help them stop doing bad things to others.

Zacchaeus shares his wealth.

- Zacchaeus saw how Jesus loves everyone and he wanted to be more like Jesus. So Zacchaeus got out a bag of money. Let's take out a pretend bag of money and open it up.
- He took the money out and began to give it to the people. (If using the option of play money, pass out one bill to each child.)
- He said if I took money from you, I will give more back to you. I will even give money to poor people. Jesus thought this was wonderful. Let's clap for Zacchaeus.

Jesus loves everyone.

- Jesus was a friend to Zacchaeus and loved him. Jesus loves every one of you, too.
- Let's repeat our Take Home Point. Jesus loves everyone.

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,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

You love everyone. You love everyone.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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

JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.

EV-ry ONE. EV-ry ONE.

JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.

JE-sus LOVES us.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- Napkins
- Cups and water
- Graham crackers
- any color frosting in a tube with a small tip

Before children arrive, make a sample cracker to show children. Break graham crackers in half and using the tube of frosting, draw a dollar sign on each side of the cracker.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Today we are going to eat a snack that looks like money. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

You love everyone. You love everyone.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

We are learning today how Zacchaeus used to take money from people. After he learned about Jesus, he gave money back to all the people he took it from. Hold up sample cracker. Today our cracker looks like money doesn't it?

Pass out a napkin, a cup of water and two crackers to each child.

Please do not eat your crackers yet. I will come around and make your cracker look like money, then you may eat them.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- plain white paper
- coins
- #2 pencils, one per child
- bingo daubers

Today we have been learning how Zacchaeus gave back the money he stole after he talked to Jesus. Today we are going to put some real coins under our paper and rub them with a pencil. The coins will magically appear on your paper. Next we will stamp them with our tubes (bingo daubers). You can make extra colored dots if you want to. When you see money it will remind you that Jesus loves everyone, even if they do bad things.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You love everyone. You love everyone.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called *Tall or Short?* After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Are you tall or short if you can touch a roof? (tall) Reach up really high.
2. Are you tall or short if your mommy can pick you up and give you a kiss? (short) Pretend to kiss your mommy.
3. Are you tall or short if you can throw a basketball in the basket? (tall) Pretend you are bouncing a basketball.
4. Are you tall or short if you can ride a tricycle? (short) Let's pretend to pedal our trike.
5. Are you tall or short if you can drive a real car? (tall) Let's honk our horn.
6. Are you tall or short if you can fit in a baby swing? (short) Let's pretend to push a baby in the swing.
7. Are you tall or short if you can bake a cake? (tall) Let's stir our cake.
8. Are you tall or short if you can put on your own shoes? (short and tall) Let's pretend to tie our shoes.
9. Are you tall or short if you cannot see around people? (short) Let's stand on our tiptoes and reach really high.
10. Are you tall or short if Jesus loves you? (short and tall—Jesus loves everyone.) Let's give ourselves a big hug.

Movement Game

Supplies:

- 1 hula hoop
- 2 bean bags
- masking tape

Today we learned how Zacchaeus was a very short man. We are going to play a game called *Tall or Small?* First we are going to get really small like a baby and crawl through the hula hoop. Then we will run really fast and be tall while we try to throw the bean bags up above this line. (Have a line of tape up high on an unbreakable surface

in the room.) **After everyone takes a turn, we can do it again** (if time permits).

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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EV-ry ONE. EV-ry ONE.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You love everyone. You love everyone.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson with questions or by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the answers as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

**See if you know the words I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event.
If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.**

Jesus came to Jericho to teach the people about loving everyone. Did a lot of people come to hear Jesus? (yes) Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, too. Why couldn't he see Jesus? (too short) Zacchaeus figured out a way to get up high and see Jesus. Did he climb a tree or a mountain? (a tree) Jesus wanted to be Zacchaeus' friend. Did he go to the park with Zacchaeus or go to his house for dinner? (went to his house for dinner) What did Zacchaeus give to all the people—money or dogs? (money) Who does Jesus love? (everyone)

Lesson Prayer:

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

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You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

You love everyone. You love everyone.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

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Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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EV-ry ONE. EV-ry ONE.

JE-sus LOVES us EV-ry ONE.

JE-sus LOVES us.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves everyone.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

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