



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is our Friend
Winter Year 1, Lesson 34

Jesus Goes Home with Zacchaeus

Bible Event: Luke 19:1-10

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – *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*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is a friend to everyone.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- The children will learn that God gave Jesus to be our friend and savior.
- They will learn how Zacchaeus, though he was cheating people and was disliked by many others, Jesus still wanted to be his friend. Jesus went home with Zacchaeus and helped Zacchaeus turn away from the bad things he was doing and to do the loving things God would want. As children experience this event, they will find that the same is true for them: ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – *Bring Jesus home.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for sending Jesus to be their friend. They will offer him their songs, their offerings and their actions of love in their worship experience.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *Treasures in Heaven*, by Nest Family Entertainment. 1991

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video and Mystery Box

The Mystery Box contains objects will help the presenter tell the Bible even in creative fashion. They can be lifted out and shown as the story is told. Another option is to have a hole cut in the top of the box so that a child could put a hand in and guess what the object is before it is shown.

Jesus Goes Home with Zacchaeus

Let's see what's in our Mystery Box today. Here's the Bible. It's God's word and it's true. Let's see what really happened. The special place marked today is "Jesus goes home with Zacchaeus." Wow! This is a very important story about how Jesus' friends even were people that others don't like. Many people didn't like a man called Zacchaeus because he thought money was so important that he cheated other people out of their money. But when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town, he wanted to see Jesus, also. He was wondering if Jesus was really God's Son, the promised one who could change people's hearts. Let's find out what happened. We'll watch a video of it.

Now show video, *Treasures in Heaven* Cue 18:21 to 21:52. After video, continue.

Zacchaeus discovered ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND - *Bring Jesus home.*** Let's see how well you learned today's Bible event. If I tell it again, maybe you can fill in the special words. Jesus was passing through

the town of Jerico. A man named Zacchaeus was there. He was in charge of collecting taxes. This means that he collected lots of _____ (Show bag of money.)

Since he was cheating people from their _____, (show bag of money) many of the people... liked or didn't like him? (*Didn't like him.*)

When Jesus was coming to town, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was a... tall or small man? (*Small man.*)

Since he was small he couldn't see Jesus because of the crowd. So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a fig tree to see Jesus who was coming that way. When Jesus came to that tree, he said, "Zacchaeus, move over. I want to climb the tree with you." No, he said, "Zacchaeus come down. I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus came down and was... sad or glad that Jesus wanted to come home with him? (*He was glad.*)

Jesus went home with Zacchaeus. That evening they had _____ (Show spoon and fork—Dinner).

When others saw Jesus with someone who was a sinner, they didn't like it. They said to themselves, "Doesn't he know that Zacchaeus is a bad person? Why would he want to be Zacchaeus' friend? Jesus knew why. It's because he loves all people. He wants to help change their hearts and that's what happened. Zacchaeus discovered Jesus would be his friend and forgive him. His heart changed. So, at dinner he stood up in front of all the people and said, "Lord, I'll give half my _____ (hold up bag of money) to the poor. I'll even pay back more money to people than I took from them.

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "You and your family have been saved today. That is what I came to do. To seek and save people who are lost. I will always be your friend." So, Zacchaeus learned ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND - Bring Jesus home.** That's what we can do today.

Let's pray together. (Children repeat each phrase.)

Dear God, (repeat)
Thank you for being here. (repeat)
Thank you for sending Jesus. (repeat)
He was Zacchaeus' friend. (repeat)
He is our friend. (repeat)
We can bring him home with us. (repeat)
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! (repeat)
Amen. (repeat)



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child one half a graham cracker and some frosting. Let them make a house. Use Hershey's square sections for door and windows. Use other decorations, if available. Example – red hots, sprinkles, gum drops.

Drama Zone: Use puppets to reenact the Zacchaeus story.

Felt Zone: Create a story scene if you have Zacchaeus story pieces.

Craft Zone: Make stand up tree from craft stick and cardstock. Glue end of large craft stick onto a precut large circle or oval. Let child tear and glue green tissue paper and place in the circle or oval. Attach a sticker on the back side, "Jesus went home with Zacchaeus." Notice Zacchaeus is no longer in the tree. He went home with Jesus just as we can.

Play Zone: Dollhouse. Family characters. Pretend to pray, speak to each other – show how they would bring Jesus home. Give examples of people showing how Jesus would want us to act. Being nice and helpful.

Quiet Reading Zone: *Zacchaeus* Big Book by Group Publishing. Make pretend Zacchaeus house out of chairs and blankets. Read underneath it.

Music Zone: *Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man*

Coloring Zone: Color the coloring page.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes out with a special hat or article of clothing that indicates she is getting ready for dinner. She explains she is very excited because the shepherd from Kids Church is coming over to house for dinner. She can hardly wait. The presenter is glad that she is excited, but would like to know if she would like to have another special guest. Judy says, "Of course." She indicates the more the better. The presenter says that the special guest can be Jesus. Jesus goes with us wherever we want when we trust him as our savior. He is also our friend. Judy asks if Jesus can play with her like her Kids Church shepherd? The presenter says it's not quite the same. Judy asks can he talk with her and tell her stories? The presenter says that it's not quite the same. Judy asks, "Then, why should he come home with her?" The presenter says that Jesus is alive even when we can't see him. Even though he doesn't talk right in our ear, he can be right beside us. Since he is God and has given his life for us, he can take away any bad things that we've done, like Zacchaeus and fill us with a new heart to love God and other people. Since he is with us, we can talk to us and he does hear us. But he works inside of us become more like him every day, showing God's love to everyone. That is what a wonderful friend he is. So, we should bring him home.

Review the take home point ***JESUS IS OUR FRIEND – Bring Jesus home.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- video: Animated Stories of the New Testament—order from: http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=THD
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- mystery box
- Bible
- show above video
- bag of money
- spoon and fork

Action Zones:

Snack:

- ½ graham cracker
- frosting
- red hots, sprinkles, gum drops

Drama:

- use puppets to reenact the story

Craft:

- craft stick
- card stock
- green tissue paper
- stickers: Jesus went home with Zacchaeus

Play:

- dollhouse

Music:

- *Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man*—order from: http://www.songquery.com/html/song/z/zacchaeus_was_a_wee_little_man.html

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Felt:

- materials to reenact story

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- special hat or article of clothing

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books