

**LIFE POINT**  
People can love  
others as Jesus  
did.

# JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS



## LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God helps me to be kind to my friends.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Luke 19:1-10

## WEEKLY VERSE

Love one another as I have loved you. *John 13:34*

## UNIT VERSE

Jesus said, "You should do as I have done for you."  
*John 13:15*

## SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

October 18



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

"Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he. He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see." As a child you may have sung this song. The impression this song may give is innocence, but Zacchaeus was not exactly innocent.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. Tax collectors were notorious for financially cheating people. In fact, overtaxing was standard practice. Tax collectors not only collected taxes—which was distasteful to Jews because taxes went to occupying powers—but tax collectors decided what overage they would add for themselves. Rome, who contracted tax collectors, apparently placed little restriction on how much each collector could profit.

Considering Zacchaeus' occupation, he was not well-liked in his community, but Jesus loved him. Jesus called him by name! Jesus even wanted to spend time with him! This was not acceptable for the people present, especially if any religious leaders were among the crowd. They began to complain that Zacchaeus was too sinful and not worthy of such attention.

Immediately, Zacchaeus addressed the issue. Zacchaeus' confession in Luke 19:8 indicates he might have been guilty of following the standard practice of tax collectors. After his encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus showed he wanted to follow Jesus. Zacchaeus' heart change was phenomenal!

Jesus can change anyone! Recall your life before salvation. How can you share your experience and show God's love so that others want to know more about God and His Son, Jesus?

Children can show God's love, too. Help preschoolers think of ways they can show people that God loves them.



## GROUP TIME

- » **Find the hidden people.** Lead preschoolers to find the hidden people cutouts in the room while “Jesus Said” plays. When found, spread cutouts on the floor in front of you. Mention that all the people are different but God loves each one. Sing the song together.
- » **Tell the Bible story.** Help preschoolers name things that are hard to do because they are too short. Possible examples could include riding a roller coaster, reaching something on a tall counter, seeing over a tall person, and so on. Say that today’s Bible story teaches about a man who was not very tall. Display the Teaching Picture. Lead boys and girls to predict the Bible story. Open a Bible to Luke 19 and tell the Bible story.

### JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS

—Based on Luke 19:1-10

Everyone wanted to see Jesus, including Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He collected money that the people owed to the town. People did not like Zacchaeus because he was a tax collector.

Zacchaeus was not very tall. He could not see over the crowd of people. He climbed a tree so he could see Jesus.

Jesus stopped under the tree. He said, “Come down, Zacchaeus. I want to go to your house today!” Zacchaeus quickly climbed down the tree. He was happy that Jesus was going to his house.

Jesus taught Zacchaeus many things. Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrong things he had done. He said, “I will help the poor people. If I have taken too much money from people, I will give them back all of their money and more.”

Zacchaeus knew Jesus loved him and wanted him to do right things.

- » **Review the Bible story.** Ask review questions by leading a child to choose a chenille stem from the paper bag. Ask the corresponding colored question on the Bible Story Review Sheet. Answer each question at least one time.
- » **Learn the Life Point.** Remind preschoolers that Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus. Say that people can love others as Jesus did. Point to the Unit Verse Poster and say the verse together. Comment that we can show love to everyone. Attach the square to the Life Point Poster.
- » **Learn the Bible verse.** Gather preschoolers around the Bible verse words on the floor. Open a Bible to John 13:34. Read the verse. Mention that Jesus traveled to Zacchaeus’ house. Invite each child to travel the verse, saying the words together as they step on each sheet of paper.
- » **Wrap it up.** Show the “Jesus Loved Zacchaeus” video. Pray, asking God to help preschoolers show love to others like Jesus did. Sing “Just Like Jesus” together.

### CHOOSE

*your own*

### SCHEDULE

**Decide when to have group time; then select learning activities to use before and/or after group time.**



- » Pack Items 14, 25, 28, 30: “Weekly Verses,” “Unit 2 Verse Poster,” “Present-Day People,” “Unit 2 Life Point Poster”
- » Teaching Picture 7
- » Printables: “Bible Story Review Sheet”
- » Music
- » Videos
- » Bible, 5 chenille stems (1 of each color: red, yellow, blue, orange, green), small paper bag, tape, hook-and-loop fastener dots, copy paper, marker
- » Put chenille stems in paper bag. Attach fastener dot to Life Point Poster and square for session. Hide the people figures in room. Print John 13:34 on paper, one word per sheet. Tape papers in order on floor.



## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- › Kids Activity Page
- › Construction paper, stapler, scissors, crayons, glue

### MAKE A HEADBAND

*Cut 2-inch-wide paper strips (two per child). Cut heart shapes from paper.*

- › Lead preschoolers to complete the Activity Page.
- › Invite children to decorate paper strips with crayons. They can glue heart shapes on the strips, too.
- › Talk about the Bible story.
- › Share that just like Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus, people can love others like Jesus did. Talk about different ways preschoolers can show love to all people.
- › Print on each child's strip: *I can love others as Jesus did.*
- › Staple the ends of a child's two strips together, making one long strip. Fit the headband on the child's head, and overlap and staple the other ends to complete the headband. (Art)

- › Printables: "Unit 2 Missions"
- › Interlocking blocks (at least 14 blocks, two of each color/size), copy paper, marker, scissors, tape

### BUILD A TOWER

*Make two matching towers of seven interlocking blocks. Cut and tape paper to fit each block. Print a word of the Life Point on the paper on each block (making two sets). Unstack one tower. Keep the other assembled.*

- › Display missions pictures. Talk about the Dove family. Say that this family lives in Norway and tells others about Jesus. They love others like Jesus did. Other missionaries travel to other places to tell about Jesus.
- › Read the words on the standing block tower. Invite boys and girls to make a matching tower with the other blocks.
- › Repeat the Life Point together.
- › Pray for the Dove family. (Blocks)

- › Pack Item 29: "Bible People"
- › Teaching Picture 7
- › Binder clips, blocks
- › Option: Tape figures to wide craft sticks to make stick puppets.

### RETELL THE BIBLE STORY

*Attach a binder clip to the bottom of each figure so it will stand.*

- › Display the Teaching Picture. Review the Bible story.
- › Guide children to build a town or road using blocks.
- › Use the people figures to retell the Bible story.
- › Remind boys and girls that Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus by going to his house and teaching him many things.
- › Talk about ways children can show love to others, even those who have been unkind to them. (Dramatic Play)

- › Pack Item 14: "Weekly Verses"
- › Bible, coins, copy paper, crayons

### MAKE COIN RUBBINGS

*Take wrappers off crayons. Place the verse marker at John 13:34.*

- › Say that Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He collected money from people. Many people did not like Zacchaeus.
- › Demonstrate how to place a coin under paper and rub a crayon on the paper to create a picture of the coin. Allow children to make multiple

- coin rubbings. Younger preschoolers may have difficulty rubbing over coins. Lay coins on the paper and invite children to draw around them.
- › Mention that after Zacchaeus met Jesus, he was sorry for the wrong things he had done. He gave back any money he had taken and more.
  - › Read John 13:34. Remind preschoolers that we can love others like Jesus did. (*Nature*)

### **SORT ITEMS BY LENGTH OR HEIGHT**

- › Spread the tubes on the floor. Lead preschoolers to place the tubes in order by length (or if they stand them, by height), shortest to tallest.
- › Talk about the Bible story. Mention that Zacchaeus was not very tall. He climbed a tree to see Jesus.
- › Say that Jesus loved Zacchaeus. Say that people today can love others as Jesus did.
- › Read John 13:34. Talk about ways people can love like Jesus. (*Puzzles*)

### **FIND PEOPLE PICTURES**

- › Invite boys and girls to look through catalogs, books, and magazines to find pictures of different people. Lead them to open as many books and magazines as they can to display different people.
- › Play “Just Like Jesus” as children explore.
- › Point out basic differences in some of the people in the pictures (gender, height, age, hair color, glasses, and so on).
- › Mention that Jesus loves all people. He wants us to love others like He did. Say that children can love others by being kind to their friends. Encourage preschoolers to think of other ways to love others. (*Books*)

### **PLAY A GAME**

- › Guide preschoolers to color the coloring page. Review the Bible story.
- › Mention that Jesus showed love by being kind to people. Say that God helps me be kind to my friends.
- › Display the cube and read each side, saying that Jesus did each of these things. Comment that people can do these things, too.
- › Lead children to choose a button. Guide the first player to roll the cube and move the button to the first corresponding square on the gameboard as the side rolled.
- › Take turns rolling the cube and moving game pieces. As you play, talk about different ways people can do as Jesus did.
- › Continue playing until each player finishes the game.

### **CLEAN UP**

- › Play “Look at Us Cleaning Up” as children clean up activities. Thank preschoolers for their hard work.

› Bible, cardboard tubes cut to different lengths

› Music

› Catalogs, preschool magazines and books

› Pack Items 26, 27: “Game Cube,” “Like Jesus Game”

› Printables: “Jesus Loved Zacchaeus” Coloring Page

› Crayons, buttons to use as game pieces

› Music