



WEEK 2 - February 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.
Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse: "Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

Key Question: Who does Jesus love?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves everyone.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-Train

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-All Aboard
-Train builders
-Climbing the tree
-Journal and prayer

9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN

1. Train

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children line up in a single file line.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Challenge the children to walk around the room and pretend to be a train. Encourage the children to make train noises as they walk. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "All aboard!"

During the Activity: "Let's be a choo-choo train! Everyone form a line and place your hands on the person in front of you like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now we are train! Choo-choo! Let's chugga-chugga along!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! Now it is time to chugga-chugga along to hear our awesome Bible story. I cannot wait to hear a TRUE story from the Bible. ALL ABOARD!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by walking in a train to the story area.

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong. Then there was Zacchaeus. Can't you just see him struggling to get high enough in that tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. He never in a million years expected Jesus to talk to him, must less go to his house for a meal together! Being a not so honest tax collector had left Zacchaeus without many friends. But Jesus was different. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and wanted to be his friend, no matter what.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK

1. All Aboard!

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning as they review the Bible story

(Note: There will be a new train ticket each week to go with the story being reviewed.)

What You Need: “Zacchaeus Train Ticket” and “House Sticker” Activity Pages, Online Labels #OL1025WX or equivalent

(Optional: Conductor hat and a wooden train whistle for the SGL.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make enough copies of “Zacchaeus Train Ticket” on cardstock so when cut apart each child can have one train ticket. Make enough copies of “House Sticker” on the label paper so that each child can have one sticker.

During the Activity: Put on your pretend conductor hat and blow your train whistle. Give each child a “Zacchaeus Train Ticket,” and invite children to get on the train. They must show you their “Zacchaeus Train Ticket” to get on the train. When they show you their ticket, give them a house sticker to put on their train ticket in the white space, and then show them where to sit. As you review the story, every time you say Zacchaeus’s name, the children will hold up their “Zacchaeus Train Ticket” with the house sticker on it.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “All aboard! *(Blow train whistle)* Come and get your train ticket! All aboard the story train! Get your train ticket! *(Repeat until you have given every child a train ticket.)* Does everyone have a train ticket? *(Pause.)* Great! Show me your train ticket and you can get in one of the train cars.”

(Once everyone is in a train car) “All aboard! I need everyone to listen closely. Every time I say, ‘Zacchaeus,’ I want you to hold up your train ticket. Let’s practice. ZACCHAEUS! *(Hold up ticket.)* Awesome! Have your tickets ready. Here we go!

“One day, a man named ZACCHAEUS *(hold up ticket)* heard that Jesus was coming. ZACCHAEUS *(hold up ticket)* wanted to see Jesus because people said **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.** *(Pause.)* And not a lot of people loved ZACCHAEUS *(hold up ticket)* because he had done something very wrong. *(Pause.)* ZACCAHEUS *(hold up ticket)* stole their money! And they were mad! But if **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone,** ZACCHAEUS *(hold up ticket)* wanted to see Him! But there was one problem. ZACCHAEUS *(hold up ticket)* couldn’t see Jesus over all of the people, so he climbed

up high in a tree. When Jesus saw ZACCHAEUS (*hold up ticket*), Jesus told him He wanted to go to his house. Jesus loved ZACCHAEUS (*hold up ticket*) and was his friend, even though he had done something wrong. And Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong, too! Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**

After the Activity: “Thank you for riding the story train with me. You can take your train ticket home to help you tell others that **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone**, even when we do something wrong.”

2. Track Builders

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Large craft sticks (20 or so per activity)

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children on the floor in your activity area. Demonstrate how to build a track with the craft sticks using the dialogue below. Give the children a chance to build with the sticks as well.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Friends, come join me in the activity area. Let’s sit down here and see if we can build a train track with these craft sticks.

(Spend a few minutes “building” but become frustrated when you accidentally knock the tracks out of place or when you can’t quite lay them the way you want to.)

“Oh, no! Look how I’ve messed this track all up. Will help you me? Let’s try again. *(Begin to build, and then mess it up again.)* Oh, no! I’ve messed it up again! Let’s keep trying.”

After the Activity: “Sometimes we mess up, just like I kept messing up while building these train tracks. Tell me, does Jesus still love me when I mess up? Absolutely! Jesus loves us even when we mess up. How do I know that? Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!**”

3. Climbing the Tree

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Zacchaeus Cutout” and “Jesus at the Tree” Activity Pages, cardstock, a single hole punch, yarn, clear tape, and crayons

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Zacchaeus Cutout” Activity Page onto cardstock and cut on dotted lines (one cutout per child). Copy the “Jesus at the Tree” Activity Page onto cardstock (one page per child). Cut the yarn into one-foot lengths. Use the single hole punch to punch two holes—one at the bottom and one at the top of the tree on each “Jesus and the Tree” Activity Page. Run the yarn through both holes and tie ends together at the back to secure. Cut off any excess yarn. Place the pages, Zacchaeus cutouts, and crayons on the table.

During the Activity: Give each a child a “Jesus and the Tree” Activity Page to color. Walk around the tables and help the children tape a Zacchaeus cutout to the yarn near the top of the tree. Show the children how to move the yarn to pull Zacchaeus up and down the tree.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our Bible story today, where was Zacchaeus when he met Jesus? *(Pause.)* Yes, he was in a tree. He climbed the tree so he could see over the crowd! Let’s create our own picture of Zacchaeus in the tree.”

During the Activity: “Color your tree with the crayons. I’ll come around and help you tape Zacchaeus to your tree and show you how to move him up and down.”

After the Activity: “When Jesus walked to the base of that tree and looked up, what did He say? *(Pause.)* He said, ‘Zacchaeus, come down! I’m going to your house today.’ Everyone, move Zacchaeus down the tree on your page. Awesome job! Tell me, does Jesus love us even when we do something wrong? *(Pause.)* Yes! **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone!** We all mess up, but that doesn’t stop Jesus from loving us. **Who does Jesus love? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone.**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at John 15:12. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small Group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Let’s pretend we are looking for Jesus the way Zacchaeus looked for Jesus in the story today. Put your hand over your eyes like this and look around while we walk to our Small Group spot.

(Put your hand over your eyes like you are looking for Jesus while you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Here we are! Now let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“Did Zacchaeus see Jesus when he was looking for Him? *(Pause.)* Yes! Zacchaeus saw Jesus! And Jesus wanted to be Zacchaeus’s friend, even though Zacchaeus had made wrong choices. Having Jesus as a friend made Zacchaeus want to make right choices.

“Jesus loved Zacchaeus—even when he did something wrong. Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] “Jesus loves everyone!”**

SGL: “You got it! And Jesus wants us to love people the way He loves people. That means we need to love everyone. The Bible verse we are learning will help us do that.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.

“Jesus told us He wants us to *(point to verse in Bible): Love each other as I have loved you.*

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Let’s stand up and say that verse together with the motions so we can remember to love people the way Jesus loves us.”

CHILDREN and SGL: *“Love each other (give yourself a big hug) as I (point up with both fingers) have loved you (bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids), John 15:12.” (Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)*

SGL: “You sound awesome! Way to go!

“Now let’s sit down, write in our prayer journal, and talk to God.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong? Everyone has. Everyone has made wrong choices, just like Zacchaeus did. But Jesus loves us anyway, and He still wants to be our friend.

“Today we are going to make a list of wrong choices we’ve made. When we pray, we can thank Jesus for loving us even when we do something wrong.

(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“Thank you for making this list with me. Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to love everyone—even when we do something wrong. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love everyone. Thank You that He loves us even when we do something wrong like *(read the list the children made)*. Help us choose to do what is right and to love everyone like Jesus does. You are the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus’ name, amen.”