



WEEK TWO – MARCH 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Everything Has Changed (Zacchaeus) • Luke 19:1–10*

Bottom Line: *When you forgive others, it can change them.*

Memory Verse: *“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)*

Life App: *Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

Summary: In Week Two, we find Jesus interacting with an unexpected person in Luke 19:1–10: Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector working for Rome. He earned a reputation for taking advantage of his fellow Jews. Zacchaeus was considered an outcast by many. He must have been shocked when Jesus asked to come over for a meal. But when Zacchaeus encountered Jesus, he changed. He went back to those people, asked forgiveness, and returned four times as much money as he took from them.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Coins” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and asking about their past week
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance
- After they have settled in, lay out all the coins in a grid.
- Play a memory game:
 - Let one kid go first and choose two coins to flip over.
 - If the coins are a match, that kid gets to keep them.
 - Play then moves to the next kid (even if the first kid got a match).
 - Whoever has the most matches at the end of the game wins!
- If you have a large group or lots of kids arrive as you’re playing, divide the group into two or three smaller groups to give everyone a chance to play as much as possible.

2. Broken Pieces

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Broken Pieces” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Give each child one puzzle piece, making sure each piece has a match somewhere in the group.
- If you have an odd number of kids, take a puzzle piece yourself and play along with the kids.
- Once everyone has a piece, tell kids they have to find the friend who is holding the other piece that completes their puzzle.
- The team to build their puzzle first wins!
- Collect and redistribute the pieces, and play as many rounds as you want.

What You Say:

“You guys are so good at matching up your puzzle piece! What did you notice about your puzzles? Were they all places that you like to go? There was school, church, a soccer field, and

a home. Do all of those places sound familiar? [Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear a story about a man who changed and then changed others all around him!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *When you forgive others, it can change them. When God forgives us, it changes us from the inside out. The same can be true when you forgive others. You never know what can happen when you take the first step towards forgiveness. When you decide to reach out and offer forgiveness, it can change the way they see you, the situation, and the impact of their actions.*

SMALL GROUP

1. Set the Table

[Application Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building and designing

What You Need: Construction paper, crayons

What You Do:

- Pass out construction paper and crayons.
- Tell the kids they need to draw a picture of a big table. They can draw their favorite people around the table and their favorite food on the table. It should be a picture of their favorite dinner ever!
- As the kids are drawing, ask the questions below to get them thinking about the different ways they have forgiven their friends and family.
 - **NOTE:** Keep in mind what you know about your kids’ home lives. Be sensitive to difficult situations kids might be in and, if necessary, avoid questions that might trigger an emotional or “loaded” response. If needed, have private conversations with kids if a subject arises that warrants follow up.
 - Have you ever had to forgive a brother or sister? (For example: They accidentally broke a toy or ripped a drawing.)
 - Have you ever had to forgive a friend? (For example: They didn’t use their words nicely and said something mean.)
 - Have you ever done something to a friend that needed forgiving? (For example: You didn’t keep a promise, or you ignored someone in order to play with another friend at recess.)

- Have you ever had to forgive a parent? (For example: They said you would get a sweet treat after dinner and it didn't happen.)
- After the conversation, give kids time to share about their pictures.

What You Say:

“When we forgive our friends or our family, does it make the friendship better? (Yes) When you forgive others, it makes the friendship stronger! When Jesus had dinner with Zacchaeus and then forgave him, Zacchaeus was changed forever and then he was able to go and make things right with others, too.

[Make It Personal] (Tell about a child-appropriate time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and it changed them or changed you. Tell kids how that grew your relationship with that person.)

“Jesus forgives us so we can forgive others. Remember that [Bottom Line] when you forgive others, it can change them.”

2. Coin Collecting

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Blank Coins” Activity Pages, Bibles, scissors, markers

What You Do:

- Review Colossians 3:13 together as a group.
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Pass out the “Blank Coins” Activity Pages.
- Encourage each team to work together to write down the words/phrases of the verse on their coins.
 - Each team can decide on their own how to divide the verse. The only guideline is that they must break it down to fit on 10 coins, including the verse reference.
- Instruct teams to cut their coins apart on the lines.
- As teams finish, shuffle the coins and set them on one side of your small group area.
- Line up the teams across from their stack of coins.
- On “Go!” the first player from each team will run to their coin pile, grab a coin, and return to tag the next kid in line.
- Teams continue in the same way until all coins have been collected.
- Once a team has retrieved all its coins, they work together to put their verse in order and then sit down and raise their hands to indicate they're finished.
- The first team to put all their coins in the correct order wins!

What You Say:

*“Put up with one another’ is a kind of funny phrase, isn’t it? But sometimes we need to do just that. Everyone messes up sometimes and says something they don’t really mean or does something selfish to get their way. And sometimes other people’s choices hurt us. But God tells us to forgive and let go if we’re holding on to something against someone. Let’s remember how good it feels to be forgiven. Let’s choose to forgive with God’s help knowing that **[Bottom Line] when you forgive others, it can change them.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to (silently) think of someone they might need to forgive or someone they’ve forgiven recently.
- Encourage them to pray on their own for a moment or two.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Let’s pray together and ask God to help us choose to forgive this week, knowing that **[Bottom Line] when you forgive others, it can change them.**”*

“God, in every situation that’s been prayed for already, help each one of us to forgive. When we feel like staying mad or when we find ourselves looking for ways to get even, help us to remember the story of Zacchaeus and choose to forgive. Thanks for loving us, God. Help us to love others. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell their parents the story of Zacchaeus.