



WEEK TWO – MARCH 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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. What's Inside?

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Bag containing: small coin, small tree, person figure, pretend food, felt hearts

What You Do:

- Tell kids that your box contains lots of things that remind us of parts of today's story, and their job is to figure out how each prop fits into the story!
- Using the conversation guide below, take each prop out of the box and lead kids in retelling the story.
- When there are only felt hearts left, invite one child at a time to come pull a felt heart out of the box and then hand it to a small group friend who does not have a heart yet.

What You Say:

(Coin) “Today our story was about a man named Zacchaeus. Does anyone remember what his job was? (To collect money from people) Was he always nice and honest? (Pause.) No, sometimes he lied and asked for extra money so he could keep it.

(Tree) “Why is the tree a part of our box? (Zacchaeus climbed a tree.) Who was coming into town? (Jesus) That's right! Zacchaeus climbed high up in a tree so he could see Jesus above the crowd.

(Figure) “Jesus found Zacchaeus high up in the tree, and what did He say? (Come down from the tree because I am coming to your house for dinner.) Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus’ house for dinner. How crazy is that? Everyone was shocked! Why was everyone so surprised? (Jesus was having dinner with a sinner.)

(Food) “Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus for dinner, and what did Zacchaeus do next? (He gave all the money back and more.)

(Felt Hearts) “Zacchaeus’s heart was changed because he met Jesus. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus changed the way he treated people.

“Everyone gets to take home a felt heart to remind you 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: Felt hearts from the “What’s Inside?” activity

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to sit in a circle while holding their felt hearts.
- Remind them of today’s story, where Zacchaeus was forgiven and it changed how he treated others.
- Ask kids to think of one person they see every day and to picture that person’s face in their minds.

What You Say:

“We can all take home these felt hearts to remind us that forgiveness changes us and those around us! Let’s pray and ask God for courage to forgive others and change those around us. Picture the face of the person you’re thinking of as we pray.

“Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us every day. Give us the courage to ask for forgiveness and forgive others so that our hearts are changed just like Zacchaeus. We love You. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, send kids home with their felt hearts, and encourage kids to tell their parents the story of Zacchaeus.

