



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- One Small Group Leader from each small group
- Wrench
- Drill
- For each Leader:
  - Small bucket of water
  - Paintbrush
  - Unfinished wooden fence slat ( large piece of card board with a fence drawn on)
  - Blindfold
- Drop cloth or tarp
- Craft paper/fishing line Bible timeline and Today's Story Image (*optional*)

#### Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game

#### Large Group Visuals

- Theme Slide
- Forgiveness Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Timeline (*optional*)—CG or printed
- Today's Story Image (*optional*)—CG or printed

***Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):***

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

**What You Do:**

- Set the drop cloth down on the floor and set the fence slats on top of it. Place a small bucket of water next to each slat.

## **2. Bible Story**

**What You Need:**

- Storyteller
- Small Group Leader to play Zacchaeus
- Bible
- Tennis shoes
- Four giant dollar bills (printed from the LGV, on legal-sized paper)
- Two large, artificial palm fronds

***Large Group Visuals:***

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Giant dollar bill (printable)

## **3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- Through It All
- Let Go

# **Everything Has Changed**

**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.**

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

### **Worship 1: Through It All**

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

**Opener**

**HOST: "Hey, hey, hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you came today to [your environment's name]."**

**"Does anybody know what D.I.Y. means? (Pause for answers.) That's right! D.I.Y. means 'do it yourself.' Usually when people talk about a D.I.Y. project, it's something that you make or fix around the house. But really, D.I.Y. can be anything you can do yourself—including our Life App for this month—forgiveness!"**

**CG: Forgiveness Slide**

**“Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.**

**CG: Theme Slide**

**“Forgiveness is up to you. It's something you choose to do. With God's help, you can choose to forgive . . . instead of wanting to get even!**

**“Let me see if you can recognize some of these common D.I.Y. tools.**

**“Does anybody know what this is?**

*Hold up the wrench and pause for responses.*

**“You got it! It's a wrench! What about this one?**

*Hold up the drill and pause for responses.*

**“Yep! It's a drill! Okay, one more. What's this one?**

*Hold up one of the paintbrushes and pause for responses.*

**“Correct. This is a paintbrush—and that's a hint for our game today. I need a Leader from each small group.**

*Bring up one Small Group Leader from each group. Have the Leaders stand around the drop cloth with the boards and the small buckets of water. Give each Leader a paintbrush.*

*(To Leaders) “Leaders, right here we have the boards that we need to build a fence. But first we need to (air quotes) ‘paint’ them. When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll use your paintbrush and the water in this bucket to paint your board for the fence. The first Leader to completely coat his or her board with water—on BOTH sides—wins! Easy enough, right? (Pause.) Uh-oh! I knew I forgot something! (Pass out blindfolds.) You’ll be blindfolded!*

*Have the Leaders put on the blindfolds.*

“All right—everyone cheer for your Leaders. Ready, set, paint!

**SFX: Fun music**

*Comment on the action, and declare the winner when one Leader coats both sides of his/her board with water.*

“That was so much fun! Let’s give all of our contestants a round of applause as they head back to their seats.

*Dismiss the Leaders to their seats.*

“Now let’s all sing some fun songs to God and praise Him together. Everyone up on your feet!”

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

**Worship 2: Let Go**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

**VIDEO: One Big Story Intro**

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

## **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, everyone! We’re picking up God’s Big Story today by looking at what happened with Jesus and a man named Zacchaeus.

“Zacchaeus was a short man. It actually says so in the Bible, in the book of Luke. *(Hold up Bible.)* And you know what? I know how we can bring this story to life. Let me get an adult Leader to come up here and help me out.

*Select a Small Group Leader to join you on stage. Have him stand on his knees and put his knees on the tennis shoes so it looks like his legs are short. If possible, have him tie the laces behind his legs to keep the shoes in place.*

“Here’s Zacchaeus. *(To the Leader)* Hi, Zacchaeus. *(To audience)* Zacchaeus lived in the town of Jericho. But here’s the thing: the people in the town weren’t very fond of Zacchaeus . . . at all. People didn’t like him because he was dishonest. He stole from them!

“Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, so he went around collecting money that people owed the Roman government. But part of the deal was that Zacchaeus got to take extra money for himself—and the people knew it!

*Hand a giant dollar bill to Zacchaeus.*

“Can you see why the people didn’t like Zacchaeus very much? *(Pause for response.)* I’ve got to be honest. I don’t know if I would have liked him that well, either.”

## TREE CLIMBER

**STORYTELLER:** “One day, the people heard that Jesus was coming to town. They had heard so many amazing things about Jesus, and they wanted to see Him for themselves.

*Put your hand over your eyes like a visor, and nod to Zacchaeus to get him to do the same.*

“Well, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, too, but he wasn’t tall enough to see over all the people. Can you guess what he did? Well, what would YOU do if you couldn’t see over the crowd? *(Pause for response.)* Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, so he ran ahead of the crowds and climbed a sycamore-fig tree.”

*Take the giant dollar bill from Zacchaeus and hand him the large, artificial palm fronds.*

## DINNER GUEST

**STORYTELLER:** “When Jesus walked by, He looked up at Zacchaeus. He said:

*Open the Bible to Luke 19:5 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.”*

“I’m sure the people in the town wondered about this. They probably figured that Jesus didn’t know about all the terrible things Zacchaeus had done. But Jesus DID know. He knew every wrong thing Zacchaeus had ever done . . . but He chose to look past all of that and invite Himself to dinner.

“Listen to what Zacchaeus did.

*Open the Bible to Luke 19:6 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

*Take the palm fronds from Zacchaeus.*

*(Clear your throat.) “Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him GLADLY.”*

*Zacchaeus smiles.*

### **PAYBACK**

**STORYTELLER:** “The people in the town began to whisper that Jesus had gone to be the guest of a sinner. They couldn’t believe Jesus would choose to go and hang out with someone as bad as Zacchaeus.

“But clearly, something had changed in Zacchaeus. He stood up . . . *(to Zacchaeus)* I guess you’re already standing. He stood up and said this to Jesus:

*Open the Bible to Luke 19:8 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took.*

“Whoa! Did you hear that? Zacchaeus said he would give half of what he owned to the poor. He also said that for anyone he had taken extra money from, he would pay them back **FOUR TIMES** the amount he had taken. That means if Zacchaeus took one dollar from someone, he would pay them back four dollars. That’s pretty amazing!

*Give all four giant dollar bills to Zacchaeus. Nod toward the audience to indicate that he should give the bills to them. Wait for him to give the bills to someone in the audience.*



“Listen to what Jesus said to Zacchaeus next.

*Open the Bible to Luke 19:9-10 (NirV) and read.*

*“Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham’s family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.”*

“Let’s thank [Leader’s name] for doing such a great job playing Zacchaeus today.”

*Dismiss the Leader to his seat.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Think about how amazing that day must have been for Zacchaeus. Jesus had chosen to forgive him! Jesus decided to show LOVE to Zacchaeus instead of ignoring him or pointing out what he had done wrong. And because of Jesus’ love, Zacchaeus changed. He became a completely new person on the inside! He wanted to pay back the people he had wronged. He wanted to make things right.

“There are lots of things we can change on the outside, but God is the One who can change us on the inside. We can show God’s love to others when we choose to forgive them. And you never know what might happen when you do! God could change their hearts—just like He did with Zacchaeus.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

*[Bottom Line]* “When you forgive others, it can change them.

“Let’s talk to God now and ask Him to help us forgive the people around us.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

**Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, thank You for this amazing story about Zacchaeus. He was never the same after Jesus loved him and forgave him! You changed his heart, and then he wanted to make things right with the people around him. We can see how You can change people’s hearts when we forgive. Please help us to forgive people who have wronged us instead of giving up on them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**Closer**

**HOST:** “The people in the town thought of Zacchaeus as a thief. He had stolen their money. Why should they forgive HIM?”

**CG: Today’s Story Image**

*Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.*

“But Jesus saw things differently. He saw ZACCHAEUS differently. He chose to visit Zacchaeus’s house and treat him like a friend. And Zacchaeus was never the same again! He wanted to change his ways and make things right with his neighbors . . . all because of the way Jesus forgave him.

“That’s what forgiveness can do. Forgiveness can change people! Forgiveness can fix or repair relationships in ways that nothing else can.

**CG: Timeline**

**“Since the beginning of time, God has always been forgiving. He has always had a plan to fix our relationship with Him. That’s why He sent Jesus. Jesus showed people what forgiveness was by the way He treated people . . . and He died on the cross to make a way for US to be forgiven.**

**“Remember:**

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “When you forgive others, it can change them.**

**“You may not see that change right away. You never know how God might use your forgiveness to change someone. But when you forgive, you [Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated. You give them a chance to make a change.**

**“You can head to Small Group and talk about that some more. I’ll see you next time!”**

***Dismiss kids to their small groups.***

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

**CG: Theme Slide**