



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Coin Collecting
House Building
Food Truck Rodeo

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"I Love You So Much" and "Important Things"

Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

French Fry Verse
Move This Way
Jump to See
Zacchaeus to Jesus
Z in the Tree
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Memory Verse Card
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2024

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN’S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: “Memory Verse Card” from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month’s worship song, “I Love You So Much,” included in your monthly files; and “Important Things,” available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Videos for “I Love You So Much,” available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and “Important Things,” available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Friends, I’m SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. Are you ready to worship? This is our chance to sing and dance and tell God we love Him! God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. Did you know that **Jesus loves everyone?** It’s true! **Who does Jesus love?”**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “**Jesus loves everyone.**”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Yes, God loves you! Sing this out with me.”

Lead children in singing “I Love You So Much,” this month’s worship song.

“Jesus is a best friend who we can trust! He loves us so, so much. **Who does Jesus love?”**

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: “**Jesus loves everyone.**”

WORSHIP LEADER: “That’s right! **Jesus loves everyone!**”

“The Bible teaches us to: ‘Be kind and loving (cross hands over chest) to each other;’ (spread arms out) Ephesians 4:32. (Open hands like a book.) Say it with me.

Lead children to say the Memory Verse with the motions.

“Jesus teaches us how to love, how to share, how to be kind, and how to have a good attitude! Those are very important things. Let’s sing this together.”

Lead children in singing “Important Things.”

“I’m so glad to know that Jesus loves you and me. **Who does Jesus love?”**



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

CHILDREN: "Jesus loves everyone."

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: ice cream cone; ice cream scoop; clear bowl; jumbo pom-poms or tissue paper; and food cart (or table with furniture sliders), tablecloth, and apron from Week One; *Optional: ice cream playset in place of food props*

Host enters, pushing a food cart and wearing apron, as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name]. Raise your hand if you like ice cream. (*Pause.*) Me too!"

"I've been playing with my ice cream toy pretending I have an Ice Cream Truck. (*Pretending.*) Two scoops coming up! (*Counting.*) One scoop.

Put pom-pom on ice cream cone.

"And two scoops!"

Stack second pom-pom on ice cream cone and let it fall.

"Oh, no!"

Pick up pom-pom and put it on table with ice cream cone.

"That reminds me of what happened one time when the REAL ice cream truck came through my neighborhood. I was SO excited. I ran outside and my neighbors were getting ice cream treats too.

"But just after I took my first bite, my friend Sam bumped into me and made me drop my ice cream! And SPLAT! It was totally ruined. I was SO mad at Sam. And sad. And really, really MAD.

"In today's Bible Story, Jesus meets someone who made some bad choices, and I can't wait for you to hear it!"

Storyteller enters as Host exits.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Zacchaeus" Activity Page, cardstock, Mr. Potato Head® or Mrs. Potato Head® figures, toy coins, coat tree, green poster board or butcher paper, plastic smoothie straw, yarn, hot glue gun, scissors, tape, large paperclip, small bin, small table, and Bible; *Optional: Story Images and cardstock*

Preset the prepared coat tree and small table in your storytelling area. Place the bin by the small table.

Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible, as Host exits.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

(Notices tree.) "Ooh! Raise your hand if you've ever climbed a tree. (Raise hand.) Well, today's story is about a man who climbed a tree to see someone really special.

"This true story from the Bible begins with a man named Zacchaeus.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

Hold up Zacchaeus cutout for children to see, then set it down.

"Zacchaeus was a tax collector.

Put the three Potato Head figures on table and set two coins in front of each one.

"His job was to collect money from everyone in town. Each person owes one coin. So, he took one from this person, (take coin) and one from that person, (take coin) and one from this person. (Take coin.)

"But Zacchaeus did not stop there. He took even more money from the people.

Take three more coins.

(Gasp.) "That was wrong!

Put coins down on table and pick up Zacchaeus cutout.

"Zacchaeus took more money than he was supposed to, and he kept it for himself. It made everyone mad at Zacchaeus. Nobody wanted to be his friend. But one day, something wonderful happened.

"Jesus came to town!

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

"Everyone, including Zacchaeus, was so excited to see Him! Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus because he knew Jesus was special. He was sure Jesus wouldn't want to be his friend, but Zacchaeus at least wanted to see Jesus.

Hold Zacchaeus cutout up next to Potato Head figure.

"Oh no! Zacchaeus is too short to see over all the people.

Look past the Potato Head figures as if trying to see Jesus.

"He can't see Jesus. If only there was something Zacchaeus could climb to see over all the people.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP **STORY** GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

Walk to the tree with Zacchaeus cutout.

"Do you see something that Zacchaeus could climb? (Pause.) Yes, a tree! Zacchaeus could climb the tree!"

Loop top of yarn over the exposed hook on coat tree, letting the ends of the yarn fall loose so the Zacchaeus cutout reaches the floor. Kneel down at the base of the coat tree.

"Let's cheer him on as he climbs! (Chant with kids.) Climb, climb, climb, climb!"

Move Zacchaeus up the tree by pulling on one piece of yarn and then the other. Gather yarn in your hands as you pull and stand. To prevent the cutout from sliding back down, hold the yarn below the cutout or simply hold onto the cutout.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"Yay, Zacchaeus! Now he could see Jesus! And Jesus could see him.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

"Jesus said. 'Zacchaeus! Come down right away. I want to go to your house today.'"

Take Zacchaeus cutout down and place on table.

"All the people thought: 'Why would Jesus want to go with HIM? He's made so many bad choices.'"

"But do you think there is ANYTHING we can do to make Jesus stop loving us? (Cup one hand behind ear.) No! Even if we make a bad choice, does Jesus still love us? (Cup one hand behind ear.) Yes!"

"Jesus loves us no matter what. And Jesus loved Zacchaeus too. Zacchaeus was happy to have Jesus come to his house for a meal.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 05)

"Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus loved him and was his friend that he gave back to the people the money he had taken from them! Jesus was so kind and loving to Zacchaeus that it made Zacchaeus want to be kind and loving to other people. Because **Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus loves everyone!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **Jesus loves everyone!** [Transition] Our story time is over (pick up and close Bible), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"



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10 MINUTES

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You for loving us even when we do something wrong. Help us to be kind and loving to everyone because You love them. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! Zacchaeus took money that wasn't his. Zacchaeus did wrong things, but Jesus loved Zacchaeus anyway. And Jesus loves us, even when we do something wrong too."

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it? (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"I was very sad about my ice cream. But I forgave my friend Sam because we all make mistakes and Jesus loves everyone!"

[Transition] "And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.