



WEEK
THREE
FEBRUARY 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. COIN COLLECTING

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic gold coins or yellow paper or foam circles, and paper cups

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Scatter the coins/circles on the floor around your activity area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a cup. Point out scattered coins around the room. Encourage children to pick up coins and place them in their cup until all coins have been collected. Then, gather at the table and lead the children to count how much money they collected.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce Zacchaeus from today's Bible Story and explain that his job was to collect money from people.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! Come over here and stand with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all the coins on the floor! (Pause.) I'm going to give you a cup so you can put some coins in it. Let's go collect! (Pause.) Keep collecting until all the coins have been picked up! (Pause.) You collected all the coins! Great job, friends. Come to the table and let's count how many coins are in your cup. (Pause.) Wow! You collected a lot of coins!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus' job was to collect money from people, and a lot of people didn't like him very much. Let's go hear the story and find out why!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a number between one and ten and leading the children to count up to that number aloud.

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.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



5. Z IN THE TREE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Z in the Tree," "Jesus at the Tree," "Zacchaeus Sticker" Activity Pages; cardstock; Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent; brown paper cups; clear disposable plastic gloves; green tissue squares; paper bowls; clear tape; double-sided tape; plastic or paper straws; scissors; and a permanent marker

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

ZACCHAEUS
LUKE 19:1-10

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Z in the Tree" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Jesus at the Tree" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Zacchaeus Sticker" on label paper, one sticker per child. Write each child's name on their cup. Punch a small hole near the bottom of each cup. Place green tissue squares in several bowls.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be kind and loving to each other."

EPHESIANS 4:32, NCV

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to tape the picture of Zacchaeus to the three middle fingers of the glove with double-sided tape. Encourage children to place a handful of green tissue in their cup. Place a glove on top of each child's cup and secure with clear tape around the edge. Ask children to tape Jesus to the side of their cup, then add their sticker. Tuck the glove into the cup and help children insert the straw into the hole. Ask children to blow gently into their straw to make Zacchaeus appear.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story.

KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to know that Jesus loves each and every one of us! Come sit at the table with me, and let's make a fun craft to help us remember our Bible Story today."

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm going to put a piece of tape on the three middle fingers of this glove. I want you to put this picture of Zacchaeus on top of the tape. (Pause.) Now take a handful of green tissue paper and put it in your cup. (Place glove on top of the cup and tape to secure.) Look! Zacchaeus is in the tree! Now let's add Jesus on the side of your tree. Rub some glue on this tab (point) and press on the side of the cup. (Help as needed.) Add this sticker to your cup—it tells you where you can look in the Bible to find today's story. (Pause.) You are almost finished! We'll push Zacchaeus into the cup and add the straw to the hole on the side. Blow into the straw and watch what happens. (Pause.) Wow! That was so cool! You can take these home with you today and tell the story of Zacchaeus!"

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Zacchaeus had climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus saw him, He called him down from the tree and they went to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had made bad choices. Jesus was so kind and loving to Zacchaeus that it made him want to be kind and loving to other people. Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus was his friend, he gave back to the people the money he had taken from them! There isn't anything we can do to make Jesus stop loving us. Even if we make a bad choice, Jesus will still love us. Jesus loves us no matter what.

Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!"



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25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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

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BASIC TRUTH

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on

cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 4:32. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to pretend to climb as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the Memory Verse and motions. Then encourage the children to help you make a list of things that we know are wrong to do.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to pretend we're climbing a tree, like this (*demonstrate*), while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me! (*Pretend to climb as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Okay, little climbers, let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"In our Bible Story today, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short and could not see over all of the people. What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? (*Pause.*) Yes, he climbed a tree! And then Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down because He wanted to go to his house! Jesus was kind and loving to Zacchaeus because **Jesus loves everyone**, even when we do something wrong, like Zacchaeus. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**

"The Bible verse we're learning tells us how to love everyone. It says: 'Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,' (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Stand up with me, and let's say that together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,' (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*)



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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"You are so smart! I'm proud of you! (*Give fist bumps.*) Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) It's a good thing Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong because everyone has done something wrong. We all need Jesus to forgive us, right? Let's make a list of things we know are wrong. Then we can use our list when we pray. (*Suggestions: Not obeying parents, not sharing, arguing with a sibling/friend, taking something that does not belong to us, etc.*) I'll go first. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We've all done something wrong, just like Zacchaeus. That's what makes Jesus so special. **Jesus loves everyone**, and He will always forgive us. Let's pray and talk to God about what we wrote in our prayer journal. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us no matter what and to show us how to love others. Please forgive us when we do things like (*read the list*). And help us forgive others too. You're the best, God. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."