

Preschool Spring
Lesson 8:
Jesus Makes a Friend - Zacchaeus

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Know that Jesus is our friend
- 2) See that Jesus wants to make friends – **Luke 19:1-6**
- 3) Feel happy and loved by Jesus

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies: Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – enough for each child to have one every lesson for 13 lessons
- Jesus and Zacchaeus Activity Sheet – one per student
- Jesus and Zacchaeus Insert – one per student, 7 on a page cut out before class
- Scissors
- Zacchaeus Activity Sheet with Cut outs – one set per student – cut out before class
- Tape to share
- Glue sticks to share
- Jesus and Zacchaeus Matching Game – printed on cardstock or construction paper - one set per student – cut out before class

Optional Activities

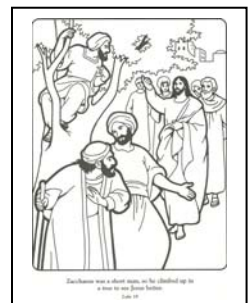
- Zacchaeus Visual Aid – one for class to share
- Acorns, Pinecones, Small Tree Branches, Twigs, Leaves, Pictures of Trees – to share
- Paper lunch bag – one to share to place tree items above into.
- Unbreakable Mirror – one to share
- Paper Plate with Marker – draw a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other
- Green Tissue Paper – ripped/cut into small pieces – enough for students to share
- Jesus Makes a Friend - Zacchaeus Color Page – one per student
- Snack – Broccoli pieces to look like trees and cheese (sliced or melted)
- Napkins
- Cups with water
- Puppet to tell students the real events from the Bible

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson:

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each student put a sticker beside their name for this week. Have them sit around the table.

*Optional: Print and show visual aid/color pages to students while you wait for all to arrive.



As you wait for all students to arrive, ask students:

What do you see in the picture?

Who do you think Jesus is in the picture?

What do they think He is doing?

What are the other people doing?

Why do you think there is a man in a tree?

Tell students: **Today we are going to continue to talk about Jesus. Jesus is God's Son – He is our friend and a friend to everyone who follows Him. And we will see that He made a new friend too! His name was Zacchaeus.**

Let's sing some songs about Jesus.

If My Name is.....

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

Jesus is my friend, Jesus is my friend.

If my name is _____ Jesus is my friend.

*Fill in name of each child in the room one at a time.

***You can use a mirror to hold up to each child as you sing about them as well.**

Jesus loves me!

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

The Bible tells me so.

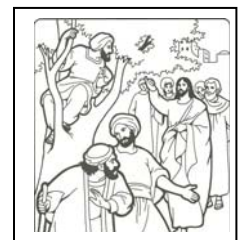
Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

So far we talked about Jesus helping some fishermen. He helped them catch a lot of fish, He helped them by stopping a storm! Then we studied that Jesus helped a blind man to see and helped a man to walk! Jesus also made many friends – he asked Peter, James, John and Andrew to follow Him. He visited Mary and Martha's home and now He will make a new friend Zacchaeus. Let's read from the Bible how!

2) Jesus Makes a New Friend - Jesus and Zacchaeus Activity Sheet 10-15 minutes

Before class: Gather mirror, visual aid, paper plate with happy/sad faces and puppet if using to help tell the story and to do the activity afterwards below.

(Hold up visual aid – speak in a loud excited voice) **Oh, what a day! Everyone in Jericho is talking about it. Jesus was coming to town! All the people wanted to see Jesus so they ran out to the road to get a good look as He passed by.** (Place hands above eyes, as if looking for Jesus. Encourage students to do the same.)



Zacchaeus ran out to the road too, but he could not get a good look at Jesus. He was too short to see over the crowd. (Squint as if trying to see; hold head up as high as you can as if trying to look over top of something; then shake head sadly.) **But, Zacchaeus had an idea!** (Tap

head with index finger as if having idea.) **He knew which way Jesus would be going.** (Point “down” the road.)

Zacchaeus ran ahead of the people and climbed (Pretend to climb) **up into a big sycamore tree.** **When Jesus got there** (show visual aid again). **Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus and smiled.** (Smile looking up.) **Jesus said,** (motion as if calling someone towards you.) **“Zacchaeus, you come down, for I’m going to your house today.”**

Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was very happy that Jesus had come to town and wanted to visit in his home. Now he got to have Jesus in his home because Jesus was his friend! (Show a big smiling, happy face. Encourage students to show you their smiling happy faces because of Jesus.)

Look, I know of more people Jesus wants to be friends with. That is all of you! (Point to each student). **The Bible tells us that Jesus wants to be your special friend too. He will always be with you if you follow Him – and we follow Him by learning about Him in Sunday school and church services.**

(Hold up mirror if you have one.) **Jesus has many friends right here in this room. I will come around and let you look at one of Jesus’s special friends.** (Hold up small mirror so each student can see him/herself. As the student looks in the mirror, ask one of the following questions:

Which special friend of Jesus do you see?Yes _____(insert students name) you are a special friend of Jesus!

How do you feel about being Jesus’ friend? (Show a big smile) **Yes, we feel happy that Jesus is our friend!**

Can you name a place your friend Jesus will go with you? (Help students realize – Jesus can go to the park, home, school, Sunday school, grocery store)....**Yes, He is with us wherever we go!**

Show the pictures of visual aid/color pages.

Talk about the story and ask them what they remember as they look at the visuals.

Jesus was coming to town. Zacchaeus could not see Jesus so he climbed up a tree. When Jesus got to the tree, He smiled and said, “Come down, friend Zacchaeus.” Jesus went to Zacchaeus’ house. Zacchaeus was happy to be Jesus’ friend!

Who did Jesus ask to be His friend? Zacchaeus

Where was Zacchaeus when Jesus saw him? In a tree

Did Zacchaeus go with Jesus? Yes

Did he become Jesus’ friend? Yes

Are we Jesus’ friends too? Yes

Can you tell me what this is? Show paper plate with happy face. Let students respond (happy face, smiling face) **Can you look like this? Let me see you all smile. Great! That is how Zacchaeus, the man in the Bible, must have looked when Jesus wanted to be his friend! He felt very happy when Jesus became his friend. How do we feel knowing Jesus is our special friend?Yes – we are happy too!**

Show sad face. **Can you tell me what this is?** (Sad face) **Can you look like this? Let's all make sad faces. That is how Zacchaeus must have felt when he couldn't see Jesus and thought he wouldn't be able to be His friend.**

But we know what happened don't we (show happy face again.) **Jesus did see Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus became Jesus' friend! How happy he was! How happy we can be knowing Jesus is our friend too!**

Let's all sing some songs about Jesus and His friend Zacchaeus!

Sing:

Zacchaeus Song

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee
little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for
Jesus he wanted to see.

And when the Lord passed that way,
He looked up in the tree,
And he said, "Zacchaeus,
you come down from there;
For I'm going to your house today,
for I'm going to your house today."

And Zacchaeus came down from that tree,
and he said,
"What a better man I'll be.
I'll give my money to the poor.
What a better man I'll be.
What a better man I'll be."

Zacchaeus was a happy man,
and a happy man was he.
For he had seen the Lord that day,
and a happy man was he
and a happy man was he.

From song sheet sing:

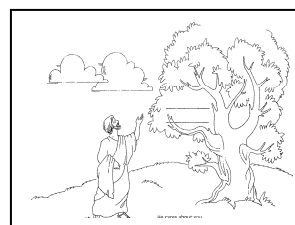
I Love Jesus or With Jesus in the Family

Thank class for singing and then have them sit at the table for the next activity.

3) Jesus and Zacchaeus Activity Sheet with Insert

10 minutes

Before Class: Print one copy of Jesus and Zacchaeus Activity Sheet along with insert of Zacchaeus. There are 7 copies of insert per page. You need one per student cut out before class. Also, cut on the sheet where the two black lines are located on the left side of the tree. Gather crayons.



Hand out one sheet per student with crayons and let them color the page.

Talk about the story and ask them: **What is missing from the sheet.....Zacchaeus!** Hand out one Zacchaeus strip to each student and help them insert it in the page so that they can move Zacchaeus up and down the tree by pulling on the insert. Talk about how Jesus cares for us and loves us and is our very special friend.

Ask students to help clean up before moving onto next activity.

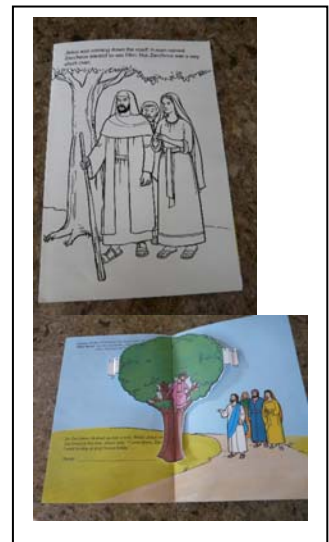
4) Jesus and Zacchaeus Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Before class: Print one set of sheets per student back to back or print the two pages and then tape them together back to back. Cut out Jesus and Zacchaeus cut out and Zacchaeus in tree cut out - one for each student. Fold the sheet as shown. Gather tape, glue sticks, crayons and small pieces of green tissue paper if using to decorate the tree.

During class: Hand out one sheet per student with crayons and let them scribble color the picture of Jesus walking. Read the words at the top and discuss how excited everyone was to try and see Jesus.

When students are done coloring the front page, open it up to reveal the colored page with Jesus walking down the path. Hand out Zacchaeus in the tree cut outs – one per student, with tape and help them fold the tabs so that they tape just tab “c” while the other tabs are folded so that the tree can “sit” over the page. Read the words on the page while students tape their Zacchaeus on the tree and have them write their name on the page (help as needed.)



Optional: Hand out small pieces of green tissue paper with glue sticks so students can glue “leaves” on their Zacchaeus tree.

Next, have students go to the back of the page. Hand out Jesus with Zacchaeus cut out and let students glue that in the correct spot on the page. Read the story again from front to back while student’s look and follow.

Say: **Zacchaeus was so happy to see Jesus and was even happier to have Jesus come to his house! We can be happy too – when we spend time learning about Jesus at Sunday school and at church services every Sunday! Jesus makes us happy!**

Ask students to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

5) Optional: Pick a Piece Game

5 minutes

Before class: Gather acorns, pinecones, twigs, leaves, etc. and place into a paper lunch bag.

During class: Tell the students that they get to come and pick one item carefully out of the bag – no peeking! Once they pick an item carefully (as some items might be a bit prickly) they get to tell the class what they know about the item and what part of the Bible account we learned today that it relates to. Example: Twig – part of the tree, maybe Zacchaeus climbed the twigs and branches on his way up to get a good look at Jesus when He was about to pass by.

You can say also, **“The Bible story we read today had a tree in it. A man named Zacchaeus climbed up in the tree to get a better look at Jesus. Zacchaeus became a friend of Jesus. Jesus is my friend and He is your friend too! Let’s all say “Thank you God for Jesus!”** Have students repeat. Then say **“Thank you God for trees!”** Have students repeat.
Thank class for playing and then have them put items back in the bag.

6) Jesus and Zacchaeus Matching Game

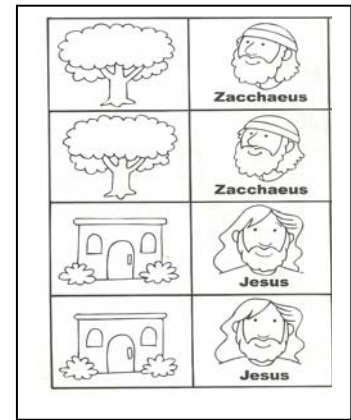
10-15 minutes

Before Class: Print one sheet per student on heavy cardstock or construction paper and cut out before class.

During Class: Hand out one set per student and either let them play themselves (mix cards, flip face down and then try and find a match) or play with a partner. If playing with a partner only use one set of cards for both students to share.

If time or when done, let students scribble color the pictures and talk about how each picture relates to the Bible story that was studied today.

Let each student keep a set of matching cards to take home and play with their family.



7) Optional: Climb a Tree like Zacchaeus Action Time

5-10 minutes

Have ready: chairs or stairs or if you can do outside – a hill or slide to “climb”.

Tell students: **Just like Jesus’ friend Zacchaeus followed Jesus when He called. We will follow when we are called in this game. When I call your name you can come to where I am. You will pretend to be Zacchaeus and “climb” the tree (chair, stairs, or hill, etc.). You will hold my hand while climbing to be safe. Just like Zacchaeus you must follow what I say – Just like Zacchaeus did when Jesus called him! I will pick someone else to be Jesus. Everyone else can watch and wait for their turn – ok?**

_____, **you be Zacchaeus and climb up in the tree.** (Help student to climb safely)
_____, **can be your friend Jesus. When Jesus asks you to come down, come down and show how happy you feel to be Jesus’ friend.** (Have “Jesus” call Zacchaeus to come down from the tree) Repeat for each student in the room to each be Zacchaeus and Jesus.

Say: **I am glad Jesus wanted to be Zacchaeus’ friend and wants to be our friend too! He is with us wherever we are. How wonderful to be Jesus’ friend!**

8) Optional: Jesus Makes a Friend Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet with crayons to students. While students color ask them to tell you all that they can remember about the story they learned about today from the Bible as they look at the picture. Have them count the people and write the number (help if needed) in the tree trunk.



Questions:

Who did Jesus ask to be His friend? Zacchaeus

Where was Zacchaeus when Jesus saw him? In a tree

Did Zacchaeus go with Jesus? Yes

Did he become Jesus’ friend? Yes

Are we Jesus’ friends too? Yes

Zacchaeus Song

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he.

(using both hands, make it look like you are showing the size of a very small man.)

He climbed up in the sycamore tree, for Jesus to see.

(using both hands act as though you are climbing up a tree)

And when the Lord passed that way, He looked up in the tree,

(using you fingers, make it look as though someone is walking.)

And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there;

For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today."

(use hand and motion as if calling someone to come to you)

Jesus Loves (Action Rhyme)

Thea Cannon

Jesus loves all children -

The ones still very small

(Use hand to indicate knee-high child.)

The baby in the cradle,

(Fold arms to form cradle and rock.)

The ones so big and tall.

(Hands reached high over head.)

10) Sing

Choose songs from the "Songs" Pages.

11) Optional - Snack: Broccoli "Trees" with Cheese**5 minutes**

Hand out snack to each student along with a glass of water. (You can either melt cheese so they can dip their "trees" into the cheese, or hand out a piece of cheese with a "tree")

Ask them what they remember learning in the story today that had to do with a tree (as these snacks are supposed to represent). **We are going to each get some tree shaped snacks to help us remember that Jesus called Zacchaeus down from the tree to be His friend. Jesus is our friend too. He loves us and takes good care of us. Isn't that wonderful? Let's think about how wonderful Jesus is as we eat our snacks.**

Talk about and review the story they learned today while they snack.

After snack have kids clean up. Then move on to the remaining activities.

12) Close in prayer

Tell students that **we are going to pray, to pray we need to put down everything and fold our hands and bow our heads like this** (show students). **This way we can hear and listen to the prayer and when we sit quietly and focus on God - it makes God happy! We learn this in God's Word the Bible and we need to obey God.**

First: Ask if there are prayer requests that kids want to share. Make a list. Then give the list to the assistant or read yourself.

Second: Remind students to fold hands and bow heads then pray:

Thank You God for Jesus Your Son. Thank You God that Jesus helps us and is our special friend who loves us and will always be there for us. Thank you God for our families, our friends, our pets and our church family too. Thank You God as well that we can know that we are safe and in good hands because Jesus is our friend. Thank you God for your Son Jesus who loves us and thank you God for everyone here today and those who could not be here because they were sick or away. We pray for those who are sick that you will make them better.

We pray you will bring us all back to Sunday school next week safely.

In Jesus name, Amen.