



# 3PK

February 15-16, 2014

DATE

Zacchaeus

LESSON TITLE

Luke 19:1-10  
Jesus Storybook Bible (pp. 264-271)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus' Love Changed Zacchaeus

MAIN POINT

## schedule

### First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

**Next 5 minutes:** Connect Time

**Next 25 minutes:** Large Group

**Last 25 minutes:** Snack and Small Group

Finish early? Repeat the activity! Kids this age learn through repetition. Or, check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

## tips

Before going into large group, remind your class what HOPS the Kangaroo says:

- Have Fun
- Obey your leaders
- Put your listening ears on
- Share with others

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents why we have a tree in our room today!

## large group heads up

Zacchaeus changed when he met Jesus. In large group today, we're going to talk about what was different about him once he experienced Jesus' love.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (10 minutes after the service start time, when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter)**
- Line Up
- Today, we're going to talk about a man named Zacchaeus, who got to meet Jesus! When we get into large group, we're going to pretend we're Zacchaeus. So let's have some fun pretending now by playing "Zacchaeus Says" (it's like "Simon Says" but with a new character):
  - (Give directives; you can switch these up to make it anything you want):  
Zacchaeus says...
    - Do a jumping jack
    - Pretend to climb a tree
    - Give a friend a high five
    - Jump as high as you can
    - Spin around
    - Put one foot out in front of you
    - Sit on the ground
    - **End with:** Listen to Jesus

*Then practice putting on your listening ears. Say, "Shhh!" and remind them to stay quiet for Large Group. Tip-toe in together!*



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell today's story and (2) recognize that Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus

**Why?** Kids may not yet understand that Jesus' love can change them—or that they need to change at all. So right now, we're going to first examine how it worked for Zacchaeus.

**Tip:** Have fun acting out the story! And when you're done, you've got three "extra time" options. Do one, two, or three to keep your kids engaged!

## small group

**\*Give kids a snack as you review the story.**

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. Tell me what Zacchaeus was like before he met Jesus. (short, mean, few friends)
2. How did Zacchaeus try to get taller to see Jesus? (he climbed a tree)
3. What did Jesus say while Zacchaeus was in the tree? (Come down; I'm going to your house today.)
4. Did Jesus love Zacchaeus? (YES) Did he want to be his friend? (YES)
5. What was Zacchaeus like after Jesus loved him? (he was still short, nice, Jesus was his friend)
6. Why did Jesus want to be Zacchaeus' friend? (he loves him, and everyone, no matter what we've done)

### ACTIVITY: ACT OUT THE STORY

*\*Emphasize the change Zacchaeus went through*

1. Stand away from the **tree** and pretend to be short, mean and friendless.
  - act it out like you did in large group
2. Then stand by the tree, pretend to climb it and look for Jesus
  - model by standing "under the tree" and putting your hand over your eyes in searching motion
3. Remember, Jesus LOVED Zacchaeus! He went to the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down! I'm coming to your house!"
  - Let's do that together, "Zacchaeus, come down! I'm going to your house!"
4. Zacchaeus came down and guess what? He started being nicer!
  - Give somebody a high five and a smile.

(Continue on the following page)



5. Repeat! Repetition is important for this age group. Switch it up though:

- Choose a “Zacchaeus” and have kids play different roles, like (1) people who didn’t like Zacchaeus, (2) other people there to see Jesus (have “Zacchaeus” pretend to be shorter), (3) people looking shocked that Jesus would invite Zacchaeus over, and (4) people happy that Zacchaeus was being nicer.

**\*Then pray with the kids, asking God to help show them how much Jesus loves US this week...just like he loved Zacchaeus.**

*Extra time? Remind kids that after Zacchaeus met Jesus, he was kind. Then plan “Freeze Dance” with a kindness twist: have a dance party, but when the music stops...freeze! The person who “loses” (freezes last) has to say something kind they want to do at home. You could also have kids add Zacchaeus to their coloring pages or play some more “Zacchaeus Says”!*



## special notes

Feel free to add extra motions to help kids understand how different Zacchaeus was before and after he received Jesus' love!

## presenter tips

Find ways to keep kids engaged by having them repeat a word or phrase, act something out, or make a face or a motion... every couple minutes give them a way to engage verbally or kinesthetically. Double bonus - It will actually help them remember what you're saying too!

## script

**Presenter:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid's Club. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend, HOPS. She's going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make in Kids' Club.

**Video: HOPS 3 Put On Your Listening Ears! (About 1 minute)**

Wow, I can't wait to obey in Kids' Club today. Before we hear our story, let's practice what HOPS showed us. Show me those listening ears (Let kids respond.) Great job! Now I think we're ready to *listen* to God's story.

### REVIEW THE BEGINNING OF GOD'S STORY

**Presenter:** (Hold up the **Bible** for kids to see.) This is where we can read about God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It's God's Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.) But THEN, something bad happened. A snake tricked the first two people, Adam and Eve, into thinking they didn't need to trust or obey God. So Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God... God loved them anyway! And he planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to God again. We've been talking about that King and Rescuer. His name is... (Let kids say: Jesus!) Yes, Jesus!

### ZACCHAEUS WAS MEAN

Today, we're going to hear a story about a man who met Jesus. His name was Zacchaeus. Can you guys say, "Zacchaeus?" (Let kids respond.) Everybody stand up! We're going to all pretend to be Zacchaeus. (Let kids stand.)



## script continued

OK, I need everybody to make a mean face (model and let kids repeat). Good job! Zacchaeus was a mean guy. And cross your arms like this (cross your arms over your chest and let kids repeat). Good! Zacchaeus was so mean, that he didn't have many friends... So now (with your arms crossed) turn away to the back wall (let kids respond).

Great, now turn back so you can hear me (let kids respond). Zacchaeus was mean and had no friends. AND he was short. Everybody get down on your knees (let kids respond). Great! Now have a seat (let kids sit). Let's hear a story about this short mean guy who had no friends!

### **ZACCHAEUS MET JESUS—AND CHANGED!**

One day though, Zacchaeus met Jesus. And he found out Jesus loved him. And that love changed him. We're going to watch a video about it. As we watch, see if you can figure out how Zacchaeus was different after he met Jesus.

#### **Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus**

Wow, what a great story! Zacchaeus met Jesus...and he changed!

We talked about how he was short....was he still short? (Let kids guess: yes or no.) YES, he was still short.

BUT, we talked about how he was mean. Was he still mean? (Let kids say: no!) NO, after he met Jesus, Zacchaeus wanted to give money away to people and be kind to them! Everybody give me a big smile. (Let kids smile.)

And we talked about how he didn't have many friends. We know Zacchaeus had at least one friend at the end of this story...who was it? (Let kids say: Jesus!) That's right! *Jesus* was his friend! Stand up if Jesus wants to be YOUR friend too! (Let kids stand. Invite everyone to stand—make it clear that each kid is dearly loved.)

### **CONCLUDE AND PRAY**

When Zacchaeus knew Jesus loved him, he changed! When we know Jesus loves US, we change! When we know Jesus is our friend, we can be kind to others and treat them like friends. Let's pray together. Pray, breaking it into small, repeatable phrases:

Pray: Hi God! Thanks for loving Zacchaeus. Thanks for loving me. I love you back! In Jesus' name, Aaaa-MEN.

#### **Music Video: Jesus Loves Me** **Song: King of the Jungle**

Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop--like Hops--to their groups.)



**script continued**

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

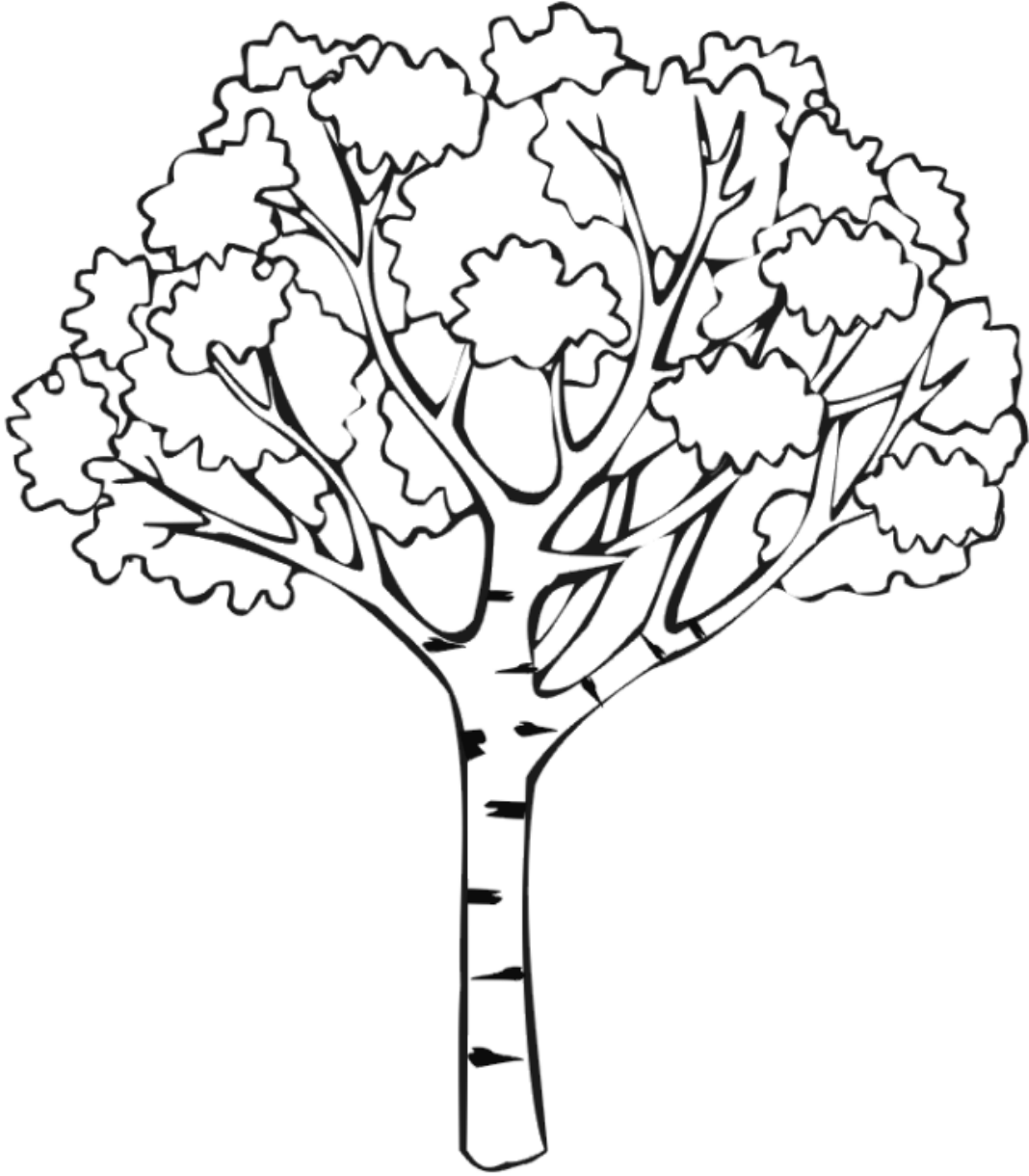




**script continued**

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

name



# PREP needs



---

## connect time supplies

“Zacchaeus Says” Game - No supplies needed

---

## small group supplies

1 tree per room (not per small group)—same trees we used last year: <http://bit.ly/1jUMUNs>  
Coloring Page: Tree

---

## large group supplies

JSB (pp. 264-271)

---

## a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 3 Put On Your Listening Ears
2. Video: God’s Story / Zacchaeus
3. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)
4. Song: King of the Jungle

---

## connect questions

Tell me about Zacchaeus.  
How did Zacchaeus change when he met Jesus?

---

## parent page

A man named Zacchaeus changed completely when he met Jesus. Ask your kid to tell you about it. Then read the story together in the Bible in Luke 19:1-10. Or watch a video about it on [CrossroadsKidsClub.net](http://CrossroadsKidsClub.net).