



Kindergarten-2nd

February 15-16, 2014

DATE

Zacchaeus

LESSON TITLE

Luke 19:1-10
NirV Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p.1224)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus Loved Zacchaeus When Nobody Else Did

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Today, we're going to start by talking about friends. As kids enter the room, start asking them about their friends. Or introduce them to kids if they don't seem to know anybody. (And remember, Grandma or a stuffed animal might be a kid's best friend.)

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell the story of Zacchaeus using their popsicle stick and tree props.

large group heads up

Jesus loved Zacchaeus...even when nobody else did. And receiving Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

MAKE-A-FRIEND

- Give each kid **play-dough**
- Ask them to “sculpt” their best friend
- Ask kids to share or tell each other about their friend in pairs—or (if your group is small enough) go around the circle and share with the group. Here are some things they can share:
 - Their friends' name
 - Why they like that friend
 - What they like to play with that friend
 - What that friend looks like
 - When they met that friend
 - Etc.

Then ask kids about their week. Remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell today's story and (2) recognize that Jesus loved Zacchaeus when nobody else did!

Why? Some people are difficult to love...but when we act like Jesus, we love everyone.

Tip: Really focus on questions #3 and #5 during discussion. Help kids consider them. And if your group is rowdy or has trouble focusing, try giving them a little bit of **Play-Dough**. Let them "smoosh" it into shapes while they talk.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Did anybody hear God tell you he loves you? Or think of one way they could change and start following Jesus? Or did God show you somebody you know who needs to know God loves them? (*Affirm that kids heard from God. We'll talk about this later.*)
2. Tell me what Zacchaeus was like before he met Jesus.
3. Why didn't people like Zacchaeus?
4. *Why did Jesus want to go to Zacchaeus' house for dinner?
5. What was Zacchaeus like after he realized Jesus loved him?
6. *Why did being loved by Jesus make Zacchaeus want to change?

ACTIVITY

Create a popsicle-stick Zacchaeus and a tree to climb:

- Give each kid a **tree** and a **Zacchaeus**
- Let them **color**
- Help kids **glue** Zacchaeus onto the popsicle stick
- Choose 1 of two options to "act" it out:
 - Option 1: Read it from Luke 19:1-10 (Pg.1224 NIV) and help kids use their props (and themselves, if you want) to reenact the story
 - Option 2: Go around the circle and try to retell the story based on what kids remember from large group. You can start with something like, "Once, there was a man named Zacchaeus."
- Discuss:
 - Is there anybody you could show Jesus' love to this week (remind them they can share what they heard from God during Large Group? How might that person change? How can we act differently, knowing that Jesus loves US?

(Continue on the following page)

- How can we show other people that Jesus loves them? (Come up with specific examples like: making people smile when they are sad, letting them choose the game, etc.)

***Pray with the kids, asking God to help show them how much Jesus loves US this week...just like he loved Zacchaeus. Ask him to help us show his love to others.**

Extra time? Play some "Zacchaeus Says" as a group (that's really just "Simon Says"). Or build scenes from today's story out of Play-Dough.

special notes

Since last year, we focused on the fact that Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus, this year we want to emphasize that Jesus loves the marginalized (even if they've marginalized themselves, as Zacchaeus did). Certainly include the fact that Zacchaeus changed...but focus on how Jesus loved him in spite of his actions.

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

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you. We've been talking about friends, so I've got a little video song to start us off. Feel free to sing along. As we watch it, think about the friend you talked about during Connect Time. What do you like best about your friends?

Video: You've Got A Friend in Me (about 1 minute)

That's a fun video, isn't it? And maybe your best friend is a toy like in that video, or a family member, or somebody in your class at school. Whoever your friends are, I want to hear about them. Who can tell me one thing about your friend? (Let 3-5 kids share.)

IT'S HARD TO LIKE SOME PEOPLE

Wow, that's great! Sounds like you guys have some good friends who are... (*sum up what kids said, like "nice, like to play fun things, sit by you, etc."*).

So the opposite of people who are nice, fun to play with, helpful, *etc: (*use examples kids gave*) ...are people who are mean, don't like to play the same games as us, hurt us, *etc: (*personalize to your group*).

Is it hard to like somebody like that? ...Harder than it is to like our friends? (Let kids say: YES!) It sure is! Why? (Let kids respond.) That's right, it's hard to like somebody who isn't nice to us or who hurts us.

NOBODY LIKED ZACCHAEUS

Today, we're going to hear the story of a guy named Zacchaeus who lived in a place called Jericho. (**Click to show picture of the map.**) Jericho is right here—it still exists today (refer to map).



script continued

Zacchaeus didn't have very many friends... because most people didn't like him. In fact, most people in Jericho *hated* Zacchaeus because he took money from them. It's definitely hard to like somebody who takes our money all the time, isn't it?!

Well, one day, Jesus came to Jericho. Zacchaeus really, really wanted to see Jesus. But in addition to having no friends, Zacchaeus was really short. So he couldn't see anything and he couldn't ask people to help him. So does anybody know what he did? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he climbed up in a tree!

ZACCHAEUS MET JESUS

Up in this tree, Zacchaeus could see Jesus. And guess what? Much to Zacchaeus' surprise, Jesus walked *right* up to that tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down here!" What?! Nobody wanted to talk to Zacchaeus...but now Jesus was talking straight to him!! And do you guys think Jesus wanted Zacchaeus to come down? (Let kids guess; don't tell them whether or not their guesses are correct).

Let's watch a video and see WHY Jesus wanted Zacchaeus to come down.

Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus

Wow, so why did Jesus ask Zacchaeus to come down? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he wanted to go over to Zacchaeus' house. Do you guys think Jesus liked Zacchaeus? (Let kids say: yes!) Yes! Jesus loved Zacchaeus! Even though Zacchaeus wasn't a nice person, Jesus wanted him to be a part of his family. God wants everybody—nice or mean or in between—to be part of his family. He loves all of us!

ZACCHAEUS CHANGED

The best part is, when Zacchaeus realized that Jesus loved him, he changed. How was Zacchaeus different after he found out Jesus loved him? (Let kids respond.) That's right, instead of taking money he wanted to give it back! Instead of hurting people, he wanted to help them. That's because when Zacchaeus realized how much Jesus loved him, he started following Jesus!

And you know what? No matter if you have a million friends, only one, or nobody likes you at all...*Jesus loves you*. He thinks you're the greatest. And he wants you to follow him, just like Zacchaeus followed him!

PRAY

Wow, that's great news, isn't it?! We're going to pray together now. For the beginning of the prayer, we're going to listen to God. First, ask God to tell you how much he loves you. (Pause) Ask him what you could do different to follow Jesus. (Pause.) Then ask God if there's anybody you know who needs to know Jesus loves *them*. (Pause; then close in prayer for the kids.)



script continued

WORSHIP

Now, let's watch an awesome new video to remember today's story. Then we'll dance, shout and sing because it's such great news that Jesus loves us all!

Music Video: The Ballad of Zacchaeus

Song: Dance Shout and Sing

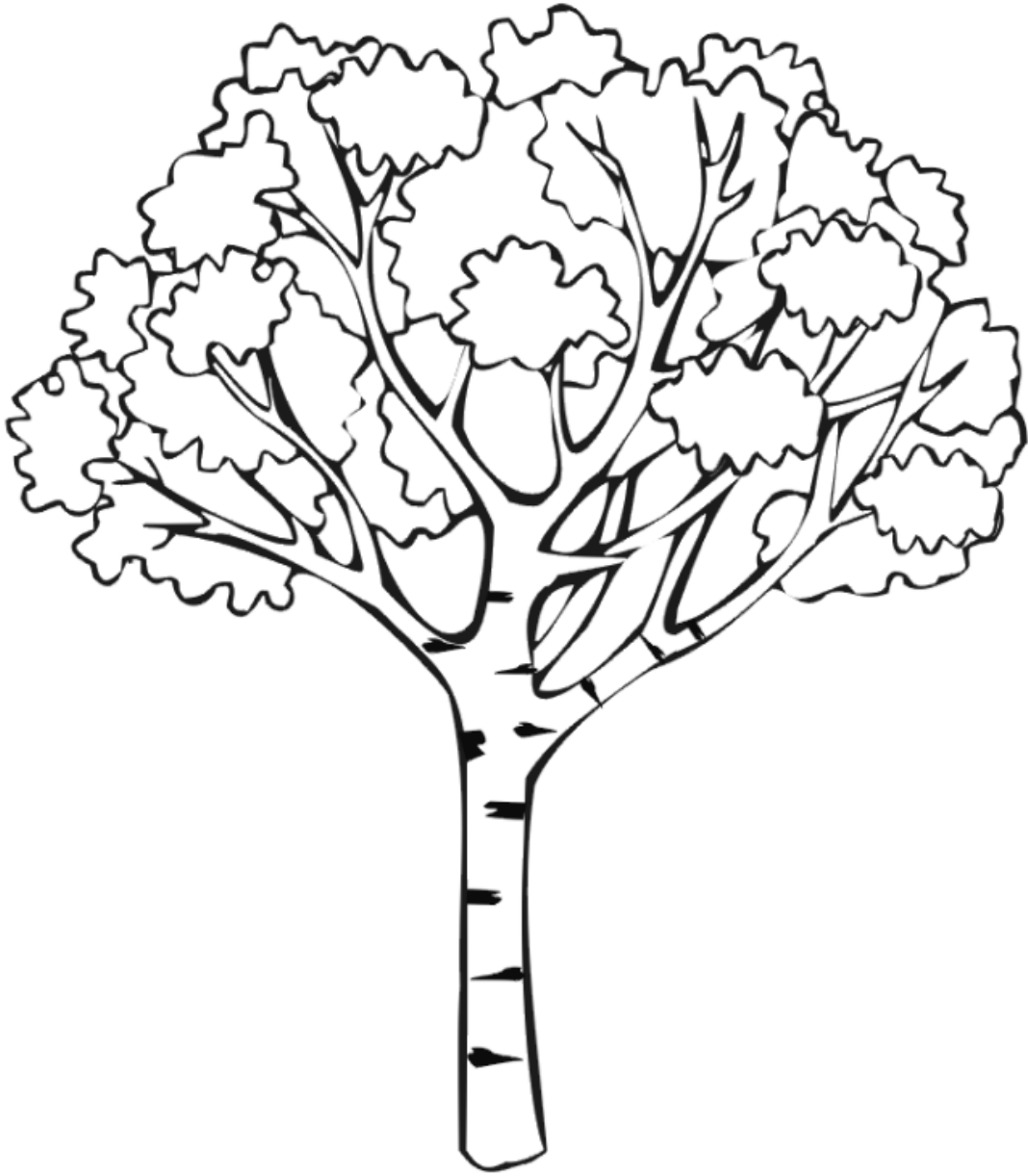
Dismiss kids to small groups.



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Play-Dough

small group supplies

1. Play-Dough (at the small group leader's discretion; see today's small group tip)
2. Markers
3. Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1224)
4. Per kid: Color Your Own Zacchaeus door hanger (OT: IN-13607051); do not include the thread for hanging it
5. Glue per group
6. Coloring Page: Tree

large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1224)

a/v needs

1. Video: You've Got A Friend in Me (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zB2gPZRsz0Q>)
2. Image: map of Jericho
3. Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus
4. Music Video: Ballad of Zacchaeus
5. Song: Dance Shout and Sing

connect questions

Tell me about Zacchaeus.
What made Zacchaeus change?

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.