



Kindergarten-2nd

January 30-February 1, 2015: SUPER BOWL WEEKEND

DATE

Jesus and Zacchaeus

LESSON TITLE

Luke 19:1-10; 1 John 4:19
Adv. Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1224-1225, 1455)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus wants to be our friend!

MAIN POINT

schedule

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

Large Group (40 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (20 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 learning the story of Zacchaeus and Jesus' transforming love. Read Luke 19:1-10 ahead of time to make sure you're ready to dig deeper into it during small group.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them they can find all the props online—and reenact the story at their house with their family and friends!

large group heads up

Zacchaeus' story shows us not only that Jesus wants to be our friend but also that Jesus' friendship transforms us. The fact that Jesus, God's Son, wants a relationship with us is pretty remarkable!



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.*

WHAT'S A FRIEND?

***You can start in small groups, but part of this should be played as one whole room.**

- Give each kid a **leaf and a marker**. (Zacchaeus climbed a tree, so we're sticking with that theme.)
- Have them **draw a picture of one thing they like** (could be a favorite food, a thing they like to do, etc.)
- Then have ALL kids **get up and look for somebody who matches** them or drew something similar. As soon as they find a match, they should sit down.
 - *Kids will need you to help them make connections since there won't be perfect matches for everyone.*
- Turn the leaves over and **draw a picture of another thing they like**.
- **Stand up and find a new match!** Kids can sit down again when they find their partner.
- **Debrief:**
 - What does it feel like to meet a new friend?
 - What makes a person a friend?
 - How do we treat our friends? How do they treat us?
- **Then ask kids to share their names and the best/worst parts of their weeks.**

Before you head into Large Group, remind them of your expectations for behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Zacchaeus, (2) recognize that Jesus wants a relationship with them and (3) understand that when a person meets Jesus, his/her life changes

Why? We want kids to be best friends with Jesus and love him more than anyone or anything.

Tip: Today's service is longer than normal. You've got a couple options for activities at the end of small group.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY: REENACTMENTS!

To review today, we're going to have some fun!

- **Give** each kid at least one **prop** (*coloring page on cardstock*) to color (each set includes the following):
 - Jesus
 - Zacchaeus
 - Tree
 - Table
 - Door to house
 - Money
 - Man from crowd
 - Woman from crowd
 - Heart
 - Angry man
- If kids prefer, they can sculpt their prop out of **Play-Dough** (*Kids can NOT take Play Dough home; kids CAN take home their cardstock prop. Even if kids choose to sculpt, make sure they have a prop to take home.*)
- Then read the story out loud from the **Bible** (with Luke 19:1-10, p. 1224) and have kids "act" out their role whenever they hear it. (Some roles are inanimate objects and will have to make up actions. They might need your help!)

DIG DEEPER AND REMEMBER

1. Do you have any questions about today's story? If so, what?
2. Why did Jesus want to be friends with Zacchaeus?
3. Why do you think Jesus' friendship changed Zacchaeus?
4. Why does Jesus want a friendship with *us*?
5. How could a friendship with Jesus change *your* life?

(Continue on the following page)

Together, thank God that we can have a relationship with Jesus.

****Tell kids that they can get all the props at home—coloring page versions or nice colored versions. So if they want to put on a play with their families, they can! The web address is printed on each prop page.***

*Give kids the **Zacchaeus coloring page**. You can also use **extra leaves** to play the Connect Time game again. Or you could really help kids feel known by having them take turns introducing each other to the entire group. Share their name and one thing they like. Still have time? Start a group game of Simon Says or watch the videos from Large Group again!*

special notes

Remember that today's service is extra long (80 minutes). So the script SHOULD take longer than usual!

presenter tips

For the song, "Jesus Loves Me," learn the hand motions ahead of time by watching this video: <https://vimeo.com/44164426>. A different video without motions will be viewed by kids, so they'll need you to lead them.

script

**Click to play intro music.*

Hi, everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Today is a big weekend, isn't it? Why is this weekend a big deal? (Let kids respond.) That's right, it's SUPER BOWL WEEKEND here at Crossroads. This is a time for us to have a lot of fun while we hear part of God's story and find out how we can be part of it.

INTRO: FRIENDS

And to start today, let's talk about friends. Last weekend, if you were here, you made an invitation for a friend. So some of you brought your friends to Kids' Club today. That's pretty awesome. Give somebody next to you a high five, whether they brought a friend or not. I think you're all awesome, just for coming! (Let kids high five.)

And whether you come every weekend or this is your first time, raise your hand if you met a new friend today (let kids raise their hands). That's awesome! What makes a person a friend? (Let kids respond.) Yes, we often like people who like the same things, are kind to us, fun to be with, help us.

But the truth is, sometimes our friends get mad at us. Sometimes they're rude to us. Sometimes we're rude to *them*. Raise your hand if you've ever had a friend get mad at you, or maybe even stop wanting to be friends with you? (Raise your own hand and let kids respond.) Me too, and it doesn't feel very good, does it?

ZACCHAEUS

(Show picture of Zacchaeus.) Well, let me tell you about a guy named Zacchaeus. He understood what it was like to be lonely. Nobody liked Zacchaeus. In fact, they hated him. He wasn't invited to birthday parties. Nobody wanted to talk to him. Everybody cringed when he came around. They probably talked about him behind his back.



script continued

And you know what? Zacchaeus was NOT a nice guy. He had been a bad friend too. His job was to collect people's money for taxes. But he wouldn't just collect tax money. He forced them to pay tons of *extra* money. So he basically stole from people. He was an outcast and a bully. And nobody wanted to be his friend. Think about a time *you've* felt lonely or left out. (Pause.) Zacchaeus felt like that all the time.

ZACCHAEUS WANTED TO MEET JESUS

But one day, Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to his town, Jericho. Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus, and he wanted to see him. He didn't expect to talk to Jesus, but he wanted to at least see what he was like.

The problem was, everybody else did too. Jericho was packed with people! Zacchaeus was really short, so he was too small to see Jesus from far away. And nobody was about to let him through to the front—they all hated him! They didn't even want him to be there. So Zacchaeus did something that would have looked really silly. Has anybody heard what it was? (Let kids share or guess.) Yep, he climbed a tree.

Let's think about that for a minute. Everybody, stand up! (Let kids stand.) OK, how silly would WE be willing to be to get close to Jesus? Would you guys be willing to... *(lead the kids through a series of silly exercises; you can use the ones below or make up your own, but give them time to really try them out)*

- Stick both hands straight in the air?
- Put one foot on your other leg's knee and stand like a flamingo?
- Sing your words instead of speak them "kind of like this"?
- Walk backwards to get where you needed to go?
- Crabwalk in a straight line?

Now have a seat (let kids sit). You guys looked *pretty* silly. And if you were in a crowd of people and you saw a grown-up man climb a tree, you might think *he* looked pretty silly!

JESUS BEFRIENDS ZACCHAEUS

But guess what? Jesus saw Zacchaeus, and saw how badly Zacchaeus wanted to see him. And you know what? Jesus walked right up to that tree and told Zacchaeus that he wanted to come over to his house—he wanted to be his friend!

We're going to watch a video about what happened. As you watch, see if you can figure out what happened when Zacchaeus realized Jesus wanted to be his friend!

Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus

Wow, so what happened when Zacchaeus realized Jesus wanted to be his friend? He was sitting up in the tree and Jesus invited himself over to Zacchaeus' house. What did Zacchaeus do? (Let kids respond.) That's right, he came down and accepted Jesus' friendship. And then he changed! Suddenly, he decided he wanted to treat other people like friends, too. He said he



script continued

was going to pay back FOUR times the money he took from them!

JESUS' FRIENDSHIP CHANGES US

See, Jesus is a better friend than we can ever imagine. Remember all those things we said make a great friend? (*Refer to what kids shared in the beginning.*) Jesus is ALL of that and more. He's a perfect friend who always loves us, no matter what. He's a friend we can trust with our whole heart.

And Jesus wants to be friends with people, even if nobody else likes them. And Zacchaeus couldn't help but change when he experienced Jesus' love. How did he change? Did anybody notice? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he decided he wanted to treat other people like friends. He had stolen money; now he was going to give it away.

In the Bible, 1 John 4:19 explains why we act differently when we meet Jesus. It says this:

SLIDE: 1 John 4:19 We love because he loved us first.

When we realize *Jesus* wants to be with *US*—and that he loves us just as we are—nothing else seems as important. When we truly see how much He loves us, we can't help but share his love.

And guess what, you guys? Jesus loves ALL of us and wants to be our friend! We're going to hear what our friend Shrimpita has to say about it. She's going to tell us why Jesus wanted to be friends with Zacchaeus.

Video: Ask Shrimpita: Zacchaeus

So why did Jesus want to be friends with Zacchaeus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, Jesus LOVED Zacchaeus! Even when nobody else did! The best part is, Jesus loves us too!

PRAY

Now, let's pray. That's just talking to Jesus, like we're talking to a friend. Because we are! We can sit quietly and listen to him, too. He sometimes puts thoughts in our heads or shows us pictures or maybe just calms us down. Let's take a minute and talk and listen to Jesus. You can even ask Him to tell you how much he loves you! (*Begin by modeling talking to Jesus; then sit quietly and give the kids about 30 seconds to listen.*)

WORSHIP

When we tell Jesus thank you for wanting to be close to us or for what a great friend and rescuer he is, we're worshipping him! There are lots of ways to worship—and one way is by singing. We've got a fun music video about Zacchaeus. Let's take a look. As you watch, I want you to put yourself in the place of Zacchaeus. Imagine Jesus wants to be friends with YOU (because he does!). You can also sing along, if you like!

Music Video: The Ballad of Zacchaeus



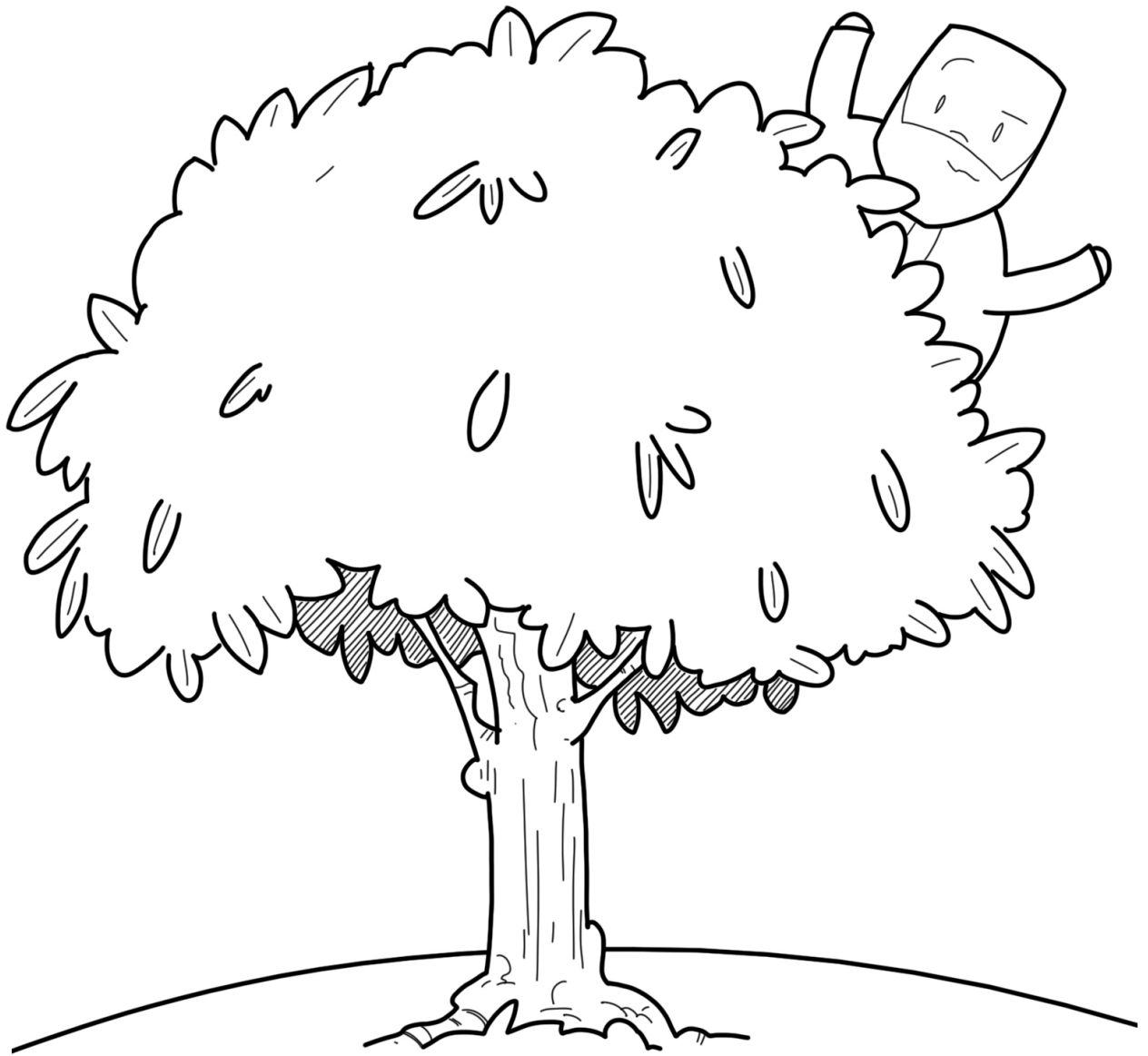
script continued

Now let's sing a song to remind us how much Jesus loves us!

Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (music video version; learn hand motions ahead of time)

**Then dismiss kids to small groups.*

name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per kids

1 leaf: OT: IN-57/2540

Supply extra leaves for the room

Per small group

markers

small group supplies

Per kid

Coloring page: Zacchaeus in Tree

Per group

Markers

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1224-1225)

1 stack of ten props (print each prop printed on cardstock), if you have more than 10 kids, take 2 stacks of props

Play Dough

Extra leaves

large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (pp. 1224-1225, 1455)

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Image: Zacchaeus
3. Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus (<https://vimeo.com/57088533>)
4. SLIDE: I John 4:19 We love because he loved us first.
5. Ask Shrimpita: Zacchaeus (<https://vimeo.com/90767011>)
6. Music Video: The Ballad of Zacchaeus (<https://vimeo.com/66762341>)
7. Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (one shot) (<https://vimeo.com/74748426>)

connect questions

Tell me about Zacchaeus.

Why did Zacchaeus and Jesus become friends?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc