



3rd - 5th

February 27-28, 2016

DATE

Zacchaeus

LESSON TITLE

Luke 19:1-9

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus' love can change anyone.

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 talking about how Jesus' love changes us. We'll be discussing how we all make wrong choices just like Zacchaeus did, but after we experience Jesus' love, we can change our wrong choices and follow Jesus. Just be careful not to make kids feel bad or ashamed about themselves when talk about our "wrong" choices. We simply want to acknowledge them, so that we move forward!

check-in/out

Ask kids about the heart they made, and what it represents. What specific way do you want Jesus to change you?

large group heads up

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



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.*

START TO FINISH

- Split kids into groups of 6-8. Have each team sit on the floor, and make sure you can tell the teams apart.
- Give each team a **marker**, and tape a **large sheet of tear off paper** on a wall somewhere on the room (it should be visible to everyone.)
- Tell kids that you're going to **draw a simple picture on the paper**. Then when you say "Next", someone from the first team will come up and **add something to your picture**.
- You will give them only a few seconds to draw something, and it has to be connected to the thing that you drew (for instance, if you draw a smiley face, the next person has to draw something that touches that smiley face.)
- On your command, when you say "Next", that kid has to go back to their team, and a kid from the NEXT team will come up and draw something to add to the picture. (Make it clear which team should go next.)
- Continue doing this until each kid from each team has gotten a turn. (If you have a bigger sized room, kids may go only once. If you have a smaller sized room, kids may go multiple times. Adapt the game to fit your needs.)
- Vary the length of time you give to each kid to draw (for instance, give 3 seconds to one kid, and then 7 seconds to the next kid, etc.)
- Make it clear to kids that they can't just draw random markings that don't mean anything. **The point of the game is to make an actual picture of something that is different from it looked like at the beginning.**

TALK ABOUT IT

- How did the picture change?
- Have you ever gone through a big change in your life?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations 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 the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus (2) understand that Zacchaeus changed his ways because of Jesus and (3) identify how Jesus' love changes us too.

Why? Some kids may not feel good enough to receive Jesus' love; others might feel like *other* people don't deserve it—we want to provide an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to reveal that neither is true!

Tip: Small Group is a great opportunity to share a story of how Jesus has changed you.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. What was Zacchaeus like in the beginning of today's story? (He was mean, he took money from others, he didn't love anyone)
2. What did Jesus do to change him? (Jesus loved him, showed him kindness, treated him differently than everyone else)
3. Why do you think finding out that Jesus loved him made Zacchaeus change? (discuss with kids and speculate; you can suggest that Jesus loves us all so much that he even died to rescue us—it's a love that is perfect; none of us have experienced that outside of Christ. Jesus' loves changes everyone: us and others!)
4. Let's think about how Jesus' love could change us: Think of one bad choice you've made. It might be what you thought of in large group. What's one way you could change if you remember that Jesus loves you? (Give a kid-friendly example first. Then try to get kids to give specific examples of changed behavior, like:
 - a. They disobeyed their parents last week, so they will be obedient this week
 - b. They were mean to a sibling, so they will give that sibling a hug to show love
 - c. They didn't share with a friend, so they will give that friend a little gift)
5. When we follow Jesus, WE can show his love to others. Can you think of somebody who needs Jesus' love? Somebody like Zacchaeus—who nobody else really likes, maybe even you? (Let kids respond.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Pass each kid a **heart template** and **markers**.
- Tell kids to think back to the examples of wrong choices you just talked about. Tell kids to decide on 1 specific example of something they struggle with. (*Give some examples if need be: being mean to a sibling/fighting with a family member, being*

- *mean to someone at school who's not cool, saying mean things about people behind their back, etc.)*
- Have kids write that specific example on the heart.
- Next, pass out the **colored tissue paper, scissors** and **1 blank sticker per kid**. Tell kids they can tear up the tissue paper or cut it into shapes and glue it all over the heart, so that it's completely covered.
- On the sticker, have them **write down 1 specific thing that they want Jesus to help them do instead of the negative thing they wrote on the heart**. Something that Jesus' love can help them change. Then stick it somewhere on the heart.
- Kids can cut their heart shape out if they want.

Extra Time? Use the extra paper to play "Zacchaeus" Pictionary. Split the kids into two teams and ask them to choose somebody to draw. The artist can choose what to draw or you may give them a suggestion (options below—and remember, the opposing team should NOT know what the artist is going to draw) The team opposite of the artist's guesses. You can award points if you want—or just have fun!

- *Zacchaeus in a tree*
- *Jesus at Zacchaeus house*
- *People mad at Zacchaeus*
- *Zacchaeus taking people's money*
- *Zacchaeus AFTER he has changed*
- *Anything—be creative!*

special notes

Have an example from your own life of how Jesus' love changed you? Share it with kids during Large Group. It's always a good idea to be vulnerable, and help kids see that the lesson applies to you just as much as to them!

presenter tips

Here's the video we'll be watching today to help tell the story of Zacchaeus:

God's Story / Zacchaeus:
<https://vimeo.com/57088533>

script

***Click to play intro music**

WELCOME AND INTRO

Hi and welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see you all here today. I hope you all had fun drawing that crazy picture, it looks pretty....interesting! What was it like only having a few seconds to change the picture and add your own touch? (Let a few kid respond.) Yeah, probably frustrating! One's for sure, the picture is completely different than it was at the beginning. It changed as everyone added something new to it.

Today we're going to talk about someone who went through A LOT of change, but only after he met Jesus! Before he met Jesus, he was mean and nasty to people. He didn't love anyone, and he made a lot of bad choices. It's hard to admit, but sometimes WE mistreat others too.

I want each of you to think of ONE thing you've done that you know was wrong. One bad choice you've made. Maybe you were rude to your parents or cheated on a test or left out somebody at school. **Don't tell anybody, but when you have thought of one bad choice you've made, hold one finger up high!** (Let kids hold up one finger—hold up your own too!)

THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS

Yep, all of us have made bad choices before. The thing is, we have a rescuer who came to earth exactly for that reason! Jesus has such great, huge love for us, that he gave up his life to rescue us from all the wrong choices we make.

Today, we're going to hear the story of a guy who made a LOT of bad choices. He stole money from everybody in his town, so nobody liked him. But when he realized how much Jesus loved him—even when he had messed up—he chose to change!

We're going to watch a video about this guy. His name is Zacchaeus. As we watch, see if you can figure out how Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus.



script continued

Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus

What a great story! **Turn and tell a friend how you think Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus.** (Let kids turn and tell a friend.) Can a few people share what you said? (Let 2-3 kids share with the group.) Thanks guys.

BEFORE Zacchaeus met Jesus, he was not a very nice person to be around. Zacchaeus was pretty much hated by everyone, right? (Let kids respond.) Yep. Sometimes, when someone is mean, or they don't know how to be kind to others, we just want to be mean to them back. Or maybe we want to ignore them.

Jesus did something different though. He knew that deep down, Zacchaeus could love other people, but he needed someone to show him how to do it! So Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus, even when no one else would. And when Zacchaeus felt Jesus' love, he started showing that love to others! For him, that meant paying people back for the money he had taken. He completely changed his life around in the opposite direction.

RELATE TO THE STORY

Let's think about this story by pretending Zacchaeus is a guy in this room, okay? In fact, I need a Zacchaeus! (Ask one kid to come up and be Zacchaeus—have him sit on the corner of presentation area. **Give him the fake money.**)

Alright everybody, pretend this guy stole some money—from each of you. Do you think all of us in this room would like him very much? (Let kids respond: no!) No way! Now, we *should* we love people who hurt us, but it's *hard* to do—and the people in Zacchaeus' town did not love him...

Then, Jesus came to town! Everyone wanted to see Jesus! Even people who didn't know Jesus is God's Son want him to do miracles for them! But guess what? When Jesus came, he walked straight up to THIS (point to Zacchaeus) guy. The guy who is taking everybody's money!

How do you think the people in Zacchaeus' town felt when Jesus showed extra attention to a guy who acted like a big jerk all the time? **Turn and tell a friend what you think.** (Let kids turn and tell a friend. Then ask 1-3 kids to respond.) Yeah, they probably wondered why Jesus would go home with a mean guy like this (point to Zacchaeus)! Instead of somebody "nicer" or "better"! (you can have "Zacchaeus sit down and get the money from him.)

Remember, Jesus wants *everyone* to follow him, even people who have made really bad choices, and that people nobody else likes. Before he met Jesus, Zacchaeus cared about money more than anything else. Now, he cared about *following Jesus* more than anything else!

JESUS' LOVES CHANGES US TOO

Zacchaeus isn't the only one who was changed by Jesus' love. We can ALL be changed. Since we all make wrong choices sometimes, we all need a rescuer. It's hard to admit, but we all make bad choices, just like Zacchaeus did. Raise your hand if you've ever....said a mean thing to someone. (Let kids respond.) Raise your hand if you've ever gotten angry at someone for a really small, silly reason. (Let kids respond.) Has anybody ever lost their temper? (Let kids respond.) Yep, we all do things like that, because none of us is perfect. That's why we need a



script continued

rescuer. Even though we act those ways sometimes, we can change, because Jesus offers us his love. No matter what we do, or how much we mess up, his love is still there! It can NEVER go away.

THE BEST PART

And you know what's REALLY cool about this story? What's really amazing is what Jesus said to Zacchaeus. He said it *before* Zacchaeus could pay any money back, while everybody in Jericho still hated him:

Slide: Luke 19:9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line."

When Jesus said, "You are a member of Abraham's family line," what he was saying was, "You are a part of God's family!" Wow! That's exciting news—the minute a person decides he or she wants to start following Jesus, Jesus invites that person to a part of God's family!

No matter what we've done, Jesus wants us in his family. Like Zacchaeus, we don't have to be perfect to join his family! In fact, even the meanest bully at your school or the most horrible person you can think of...could one day join Jesus' family. *That's* how strong Jesus' love is. It changes anyone and everyone who chooses to accept it.

RESPONSE TIME

Everybody take a minute to think about one way that you want to change. It could be anything! Maybe it's really hard for you to be nice to your brother or sister, and you need Jesus to help you be kind instead. Maybe you feel sad sometimes, and you need Jesus to help you have joy. Whatever it is, ask Jesus to help change you right now, inside your head. (Give kids a minute to respond.)

PRAY

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the group, asking God to help us accept his invitation into his kingdom.

WORSHIP

Now let's stand up and show Jesus how glad we are that he changes us by loving us!

Music Video: Because You Love Me

Music Video: Better than the Best

**Dismiss kids to small groups*



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per large group: Large tear-off sheet of paper, markers

small group supplies

Per kid: 1 heart template, 1 blank sticker (white label stickers or the blank stickers we use for KC name tags)

Per group: Markers, scissors, glue sticks, tissue paper

large group supplies

Bible, 5 fake dollar bills

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. Video: God's Story / Zacchaeus (<https://vimeo.com/57088533>)
3. Slide: Luke 19:9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line."
4. Music Video: Because You Love Me (<https://vimeo.com/49923930>)
5. Music Video: Better than the Best (Kids Club>Kids Club Media_Videos and Songs>Music Videos>Better than the Best with Dance Moves)

connect questions

Tell me about Zacchaeus.
How does Jesus' love change us?

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