

Kids Church

February 15, 2025

2nd-3rd Grades



Theme This Week- “Jesus loves everyone!”

Prayer Time- Father, give us a reason to identify with Zacchaeus so much so that this story sticks in our soul. That is helps us to feel loved and cherished by You. Thank You for walking this earth and stopping for people who were hurting and showing them the warmth of love as well. Help us to love like this.

Challenge- Floor is Lava with colored dots.

Special Story- Dirty Dog, Dirty Shirt

Memory Verse – “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.” *John 13:34*

Songs- Free, Goodness of God, Jesus Loves Me

Devotion- Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

hopekids

Small Group Time

Unbox the Story

What You Need:

- Box filled with the story props below
- Tree branch (or green construction paper leaf)
- Coin
- Bag of coins
- Food item (plastic or real)
- Foam heart
- Happy face
- Sad face
- Small Jesus figure

What You Do:

- Place the box in the middle of your group.
- Explain that you're going to "unbox" the story of Zacchaeus, just like in an unboxing video.
- Let kids take turns pulling one item out of the box.
- As each item is revealed, ask the kids how it connects to the story by asking the corresponding question.
 - **Tree branch:** "What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?"
 - **Coin:** "What was Zacchaeus's job? What did he do that was unfair?"
 - **Sad face:** "How did people feel about Zacchaeus?"
 - **Jesus figure:** "Who came to town that day?"
 - **Heart:** "Who loved Zacchaeus when no one else did?"
 - **Happy face:** "How did Zacchaeus feel after Jesus showed him love?"
 - **Food item:** "What did Jesus do at Zacchaeus's house?"
 - **Bag of coins:** "What did Jesus do after Zacchaeus was changed by Jesus' love?"

What You Say: "You unboxed the whole story! Zacchaeus was not a very liked person, but Jesus saw him and loved him anyway. Jesus looked up into the sycamore-fig tree and called him out, saying, '*Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.*' (Luke 19:5 NIV). It changed Zacchaeus! He decided to give back the money he had taken and be generous. That's because **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

Take Time to Pray with your Kiddos!

Voice the Verse

What You Need:

- Bibles marked at John 13:34

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
- Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up John 13:34
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Tell the kids you're going to practice the Memory Verse in lots of fun ways.
- Read the verse together in a normal voice first: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." John 13:34*
- Then, challenge the kids to say the verse in different voices.
 - "Now, let's sing it like opera singers!" (*Use big, booming voices.*)
 - "Now, let's shout it like a coach!" (*Cup hands around mouth and shout.*)
 - "Now, let's say it like robots!" (*Use a monotone, choppy voice.*)
 - "Now, let's whisper it like it's a secret!"
- Let kids suggest other silly voices to try and try saying the verse in them!

What You Say:

"That was so fun! No matter how we say it, the message is the same: Jesus commands us to love. Jesus told the crowd that He, the Son of Man, the Messiah, came to look for the lost and save them. Zacchaeus was lost in his selfish choices, but Jesus found him! And Zacchaeus changed! When we do what Jesus commands, we see that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"

Discussion Questions

1. Name some people in the Bible you know made some bad decisions?
2. What makes a bad decision bad?
3. Have you ever made a bad decision?
4. What was Zacchaeus' bad decision? Is was not being a tax collector- it was stealing money because he had the power to because he was a tax collector.
5. What did the people who lived near him think about him? They hated him.
6. Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus?
7. Have you ever climbed a tree to help you do something?
8. How do you think Jesus saw Zacchaeus?
9. How surprised do you think Zacchaeus was when Jesus said He wanted to go to eat lunch with him at his house?
10. What do you think that ate?
11. What did Zacchaeus say he was going to do now? Give back all he stole.
12. Why do you think Zacchaeus changed so much?
13. Do you know that our great God absolutely loves you do very much just the way you are??