

Preschool Kids Church



May 17, 2026

Theme This Week- Jesus cares about you no matter what!

Welcome Everyone- Free Play

Clean Up Time- Clean Up Song

Songs- God is with Me

Large Group Time

Small Group Activity #1- Builders

Small Group Activity #2- Story Box

Small Group Activity #3- High in the Tree Zacchaeus

Take Time to Pray with your Kiddos!

Special Announcements- Hoops is June 9-12

Memory Verse for the Month-

**“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”
Ephesians 3:18**

Builders

What You Need:

- Lincoln Logs™, Jenga®, or similar stacking blocks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set out the blocks and gather the children around.

During the Activity: Encourage children to work together to build a house using the blocks.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Everyone come sit with me. Look at these cool blocks. Let’s build something with them.”

During the Activity: “How about we build a house. Let’s work together and build one big house. We need to make a foundation. (*Guide children in starting the foundation.*) Let’s keep building. (*Continue until your house is built.*) Wow! Look at this great house we built together.” (*Encourage children to tear down and rebuild their own house as time and interest allow.*)

After the Activity: “In our Bible Story, we’ll hear about when Jesus met a tax collector named Zacchaeus and went to his house because Jesus cared about him.”

Story Box

What You Need:

- “Story Box” Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Cube tissue box
- Heart-shaped sticky notes
- Scissors
- Clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print “Story Box” on cardstock and cut one set per Small Group. Tape one picture to each side of the box. Cover each picture with a sticky note.

During the Activity: Encourage one child at a time to remove a sticky note, revealing a picture. Ask what part of the story it shows in the picture. Once all the sticky notes have been removed, retell the story, turning the box to the appropriate picture.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hello everyone. Come over and look at this cool story box! It has a heart on each side. Hearts make us think of love, and we are learning that Jesus loves and cares about everyone!”

During the Activity: “What do you think is under these hearts? *(Pause for responses.)* Those are great guesses! Let’s find out! We’ll take turns taking one heart off at a time. [Child’s name], take one heart off the box. *(Pause.)* What do you see? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right! It’s [story picture]. Let’s keep going.

[Child’s name], your turn to take a heart off. *(Continue with the remaining hearts.)* We found all the parts of the story. Now let’s retell today’s true Bible Story with each picture. *(Turn the cube to the picture of Zacchaeus with the mad people.)* Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and no one liked tax collectors! They took money from people to give to the rulers who were in charge and money to pay themselves. Zacchaeus had taken so much money that he was rich!

(Turn the cube to the picture of Jesus.) One day, Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to Jericho. Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus loves everyone, but Zacchaeus had never seen Jesus. So he went to see Jesus for himself. But when Zacchaeus got close, a big crowd of people blocked his way. They were all trying to see Jesus too!

(Turn the cube to the picture of Zacchaeus in the tree.) Zacchaeus couldn’t see Jesus through the crowd, he was too short. So Zacchaeus climbed up a fig tree!

(Turn the cube to the picture of Jesus next to Zacchaeus in the tree.) Zacchaeus could see Jesus coming closer and closer until He got to the tree. Jesus stopped and looked right up at Zacchaeus and said come down and let’s go to your house. Zacchaeus was amazed and excited. He scrambled out of the tree and invited Jesus to come to his home right away.

(Turn the cube to the picture of Jesus and Zacchaeus near Zacchaeus’ house.) Other people saw this. They knew Zacchaeus had done wrong things, and they did not think Jesus should go to Zacchaeus’ house. But Jesus loves and cares for everyone—no matter what!

(Turn the cube to the picture of Jesus and the people in the heart outline.) Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had taken too much money from people, but Jesus still loved him. Zacchaeus was changed that day, and he gave back more money than he had taken.”

After the Activity: “Jesus told Zacchaeus that He came to help people who are lost and hurting and to rescue them. Jesus did not just come to help people who do the right thing all the time because all of us do wrong things sometimes. Jesus came to help people who are sick and hurting and do wrong things, like Zacchaeus. **[Bottom Line]**

Jesus cares about everyone, no matter what. That means Jesus loves and cares for us too! Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.**"

High in the Tree Zacchaeus

What You Need:

- "High in the Tree Zacchaeus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Butcher paper
- Washable marker
- Painter's tape
- Scissors
- Optional: The tree from "Match the Shapes" Activity*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "High in the Tree Zacchaeus" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Draw a large outline of a tree and tape to a wall at child's height. Make a tape roll and place on the back of each cutout.

During the Activity: Encourage children to jump and put Zacchaeus as high in the tree as they can. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come join me at this tall tree! (*Pause.*) There was a tree in our story today. Do you remember who climbed up in the tree? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! Zacchaeus climbed up in the tree so he could see Jesus!"

During the Activity: "Let's play a game to get Zacchaeus (*hold up a picture of Zacchaeus*) in the tree. When I call your name, come get a picture of Zacchaeus, then jump as high as you can to stick him to the tree. [Child's name], come get your picture. Ready? Jump and put him high in the tree! (*Pause.*) Great job! [Child's name], your turn! (*Continue with each child.*) Wow! Some of you got Zacchaeus really high up in the tree! Super job, everyone!"

After the Activity: "Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus was coming to town, and Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. Everyone wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was too short and couldn't see over the crowd, so he climbed up a big tree just like this so he could see. And Jesus saw Zacchaeus too. Jesus said, 'Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today!' Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart, and Zacchaeus gave money back to everyone."

“Jesus told Zacchaeus that He came to help people who are lost and hurting and to rescue them.

Jesus didn’t come to just help people who do the right thing all the time. Jesus came to help people who are sick and hurting and do wrong things, like Zacchaeus. ***[Bottom Line]*** Jesus cares about everyone, no matter what. That means Jesus loves and cares for us too! Who does Jesus care about? ***[Bottom Line]*** Jesus cares about everyone.”