**Zacchaeus**

**Bible Story:** Zacchaeus, Part 1 • *Luke 19:1-9*

**Bible Story Focus:** I am forgiven because Jesus loves me.

**Memory Verse:** “Love each other as I have loved you.” *John 15:12 (NIV)*

**Key Question:** Who loves you?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus loves me.

**Basic Truth:** Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**Check In: 5:45-6**

**Worship: 6-6:30** Worship with K-5 in the fellowship hall

**Make It Fun Centers 6:30-7**

**Jesus Loves You!**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** poster board heart cut-out, floor tape

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Cut a large heart out of poster board.
* Secure it to the floor of your activity area with the floor tape.

*During the Activity:*

* Gather the children to sit in a circle surrounding the heart.
* Repeat the verse together as you clap.
* Select a child to move to the center and stand on the heart.
* Replace the word “you” at the end with the child’s name.
* Continue in the same way, until every child has had a turn in the center.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Friends, come sit here in a circle around the heart. Let’s say our verse together. Clap along with me as we repeat it. ‘Love each other as I have loved you.’ John 15:12. Great job! Now, I want to call on a friend to come stand here on the heart. *(Child’s name),* would you come stand here on the heart?”

*During the Activity:*

“Okay friends, now let’s say our verse again but instead of using the word ‘you’ and the end, we will say *(child’s name)* instead. Say it with me: ‘Love each other as I have loved *(child’s name).’* John 15:12.”

*After the Activity:*

“Did you know that *(point to each child as you say their names)* can love others because Jesus loves you? It’s true. Jesus loves you and me so much. And because He loves us, we can show love to others. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Lift the Flap**

*Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts*

**What You Need:** “Hidden Pictures” Activity Page, cardstock, sticky notes, clear tape

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Copy “Hidden Pictures” on cardstock.
* Cover the following pictures on each page with the sticky note.
* Put a piece of tape over the sticky end to secure it to the page.
* Picture One: Cover Zacchaeus with the money bag.
* Picture Two: Cover Jesus.
* Picture Three: Cover Zacchaeus.
* Picture Four: Cover dinner.

*During the Activity:*

* Encourage children to guess what’s under the flap, then lift the flap to see what’s hidden.
* Talk about what they see in the pictures.

*After the Activity:*

* Review the Bible story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Come sit with me. Let’s look at these picturesand guess what’s hiding under the flaps.”

*During the Activity:*

“Look at this picture and tell me what you see. *(Pause.)* I see people who don’t look happy. Let’s guess what’s hiding under the flap in this picture. *(Pause.)* Those are good guesses, let’s lift the flap and see what it is. *(Pause.)* Money. This is a picture of Zacchaeus taking money from the people.

“What about this picture? What do you see? *(Pause.)* This picture has a lot of people in it. What do you guess is under the flap? *(Pause.)* Let’s lift the flap. *(Pause.)* It’s Jesus! Jesus was coming to town and all the people came to see Him.

“Here’s another picture. What do you see? *(Pause.)* It’s Jesus standing next to a tree. What do you think is under the flap? *(Pause.)* Let’s lift the flap and see. *(Pause.)* It’s Zacchaeus, you were right! Zacchaeus was so short he climbed the tree to see Jesus.

“Here’s one last picture, tell me what you see. *(Pause.)* I see Jesus and Zacchaeus. What do you think is hidden under the flap? *(Pause.)* Let’s lift the flap and see. *(Pause.)* It’s their dinner. Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down from the tree so He could come to his house. Jesus loved Zacchaeus when no one else did and wanted to be his friend.”

*After the Activity:*

“Jesus loves each and every one of us. He loves us even when we’ve done something wrong. Jesus will always love you and He wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Make It True 7-7:15**

Use the computer and TV to lead kids in a time of learning. Lead students to find a comfy spot to sit and help them watch our digital friends as they talk about today’s bible story.

**Snack 7:15-7:30**

**Make It Stick 7:30-8**

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible story and Bottom Line. Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and let half the kids participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities

**Play in the Tree**

*Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** brown and green butcher paper, scissors, tape, a green sticky note pad

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Make a tree on the wall at the children’s height by cutting a trunk from the brown butcher paper and taping it to the wall (from the floor up).
* Cut a large tree top from the green butcher paper.
* Tape it on the top of the tree trunk.
* Cover the tree top with green sticky notes.

*During the Activity:*

* Pretend the sticky notes are leaves.
* Invite the children to stand in front of the tree, jump as high as they can, and pull off the leaves.
* When you are done pulling leaves off, sit among the leaves on the floor and review the story.

Option: Put the leaves back on the tree and pull the leaves off again.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Come stand by this tree. We are going to play a game!”

*During the Activity:*

“Okay, do you remember how Zacchaeus climbed way up high in a tree so he could see Jesus? *(Pause.)* Well, we are going to see how high we can jump and pull leaves off of this tree. Do you see all of these sticky notes? *(Point to sticky notes.)* We are going to pretend they are leaves. Each time you jump, try and pull a leaf off. Let’s play!”

*After the Activity:*

*(While sitting amongst the leaves on the floor.)* “You did a very good job jumping high and pulling all of these leaves off! Zacchaeus did a good job in our story too. He climbed high enough in a tree so he could see Jesus. You see, Zacchaeus didn’t have many friends, because he was a tax collector. He collected money from the people of the town. But when he heard Jesus was coming, he really wanted to see Him. Everyone was surprised when Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down from the tree because He wanted to go to his house. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and forgave him for all of the wrong things he had done. Jesus still wanted to be Zacchaeus’ friend forever. Jesus will always love you, no matter what, and want to be your friend forever too. **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**

**Leaf Looking**

*Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler’s innate curiosity into a discussion of the week’s crucial concepts*

**What You Need:** several leaves of varying sizes, binoculars, plastic magnifying glasses, clear glasses, spy glass or monocles

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:*

* Set the leaves and all the “looking items” you’ve gathered on the table.

*During the Activity:*

* Encourage the children to take a careful look at each of the leaves, viewing them through the items you’ve provided.

*After the Activity:*

* Collect all the leaves and “looking items” and set them aside for clean-up.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:*

“Look at all these beautiful leaves! They are all so different. I want you to use the binoculars or glasses to take a closer look.”

*After the Activity:*

“What did you see as you took a closer look? *(Pause as a few children answer.)* That was fun! Zacchaeus went up in the tree so he could look for Jesus! Jesus called to Zacchaeus to come down. Jesus loved Zacchaeus and He loves us! **Who loves you? *[Bottom Line]* Jesus loves me.”**