



ZACCHAEUS - DAY 5
PRESCHOOL BIBLE LESSON

LESSON TITLE: Zacchaeus

LESSON OVERVIEW: Jesus came to find and save the people who do not know Him.

BIBLE STORY: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

MEMORY VERSE: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

TEACHING OBJECTIVE: To help kids learn that no matter what you do Jesus loves you and He wants us to know Him.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE LESSON

- **Part 1: Bible Lesson:** Goldfish crackers and an option for children allergic to gluten.
- **Part 2: Memory Verse Activity:** Beach Ball.
- **Part 3: Craft:** Paper Plates, wooden craft sticks, wooden craft spoons, tape, and glue.

PART 1: BIBLE LESSON (15 minutes)**BIBLE LESSON TEXT:** Luke 19:1-10**SUPPLIES:** Goldfish crackers and an option for children allergic to gluten.**PREPARE:** Read through the lesson from the scripture several times so that you are familiar with the story and pick a helper to play the tax collector during the lesson.**INTRODUCTION TO LESSON:** Pass out goldfish to all the preschoolers and the gluten free option for those who are allergic. Give them different amounts but tell them they cannot eat them right away. Pick a helper to play the tax collector. Explain that it is her/his job to come and collect taxes. Have him/her walk around and take away gold fish from each preschooler. Ask the preschoolers how they feel about what the helper did? Do they think he/she was nice? Do you think he/she has many friends? Let's learn about a tax collector named Zacchaeus. Can you say Zacchaeus? That's right. Allow preschoolers to eat the goldfish as you tell the story.

Teaching Tip: Always have your Bible open to the Scripture you are telling the story from so children will know that what you are teaching them is from the Bible, God's Word.

BIBLE LESSON: In Luke Chapter 19 versus 1-10 we learn about a tax collector named Zacchaeus. People in his town did not like him, he took money from people, and even stole things from them. Let's see what the Bible has to say about him.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was the chief tax collector, and he was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man.

Have you ever been too short to see something? Does anybody know of a way he could see Jesus? What do you think he should do?

So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since He was about to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today I must stay at your house." So he quickly came down and welcomed him Joyfully. All who saw it began to complain, "Jesus is going to his house, he is a sinful man." Why do you think they complained? Yes, because Zacchaeus had been unkind to them by taking their money.

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord! And if I have stolen anything from anyone, I'll pay it back four times as much!"

“Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

So Jesus came and became a friend to a person that no one really liked. Do you think Jesus will be our friend no matter what? If we are suppose to act like Jesus, does that mean we should be friends with people that are mean sometimes?

Yes, Jesus loves us so much and wants us to know Him and trust Him. No matter what we do, Jesus will forgive us and He wants us to forgive and love others the same way.

EXTRA ACTIVITY: Have the preschoolers take turns acting out the story as you retell the story. Encourage them to show lots of emotion and talk about what emotions the people in the story might have felt.

1. Anger - the people were angry because Zacchaeus took more money from them than he was supposed to. Can you show me an angry face?
2. Excited - Zacchaeus was excited that Jesus was coming to town so he climbed a tree just so he could see Jesus. What does an excited face look like?
3. Confused - Some of the people were confused that Jesus was talking to a bad man like Zacchaeus. Can you make a confused face?
4. Grateful - Zacchaeus was thankful that Jesus forgave him for all that he did. How can you look grateful? (clasping hands together to give thanks)
5. Let's pray and thank God that He will forgive us when we made bad choices.

PART 2: MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY/GAME (15 minutes)**Ball Toss**

The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

SUPPLIES: Beach Ball.

PREPARATION: Have the kids sit in a circle as you toss the ball around.

READ THE VERSE: Read the verse and have the preschoolers repeat after you. Break it up into smaller parts (ex. The Son of Man/has come/to seek and save/that which was lost.)

EXPLAIN THE VERSE: In this verse it says that the Son of Man, that's Jesus, came to find and save what was lost. In our story Zacchaeus was lost, lost in a way that he was sinning and did not know Jesus. He was stealing from others, but Jesus still saved him and forgave him of his sins.

LEARN THE VERSE: Have preschoolers repeat the verse another time. Sit in a circle. Pass the beach ball from one preschooler to the next. Whoever has the ball must say the next word in the memory verse. Teachers will need to help until kids feel comfortable with the verse. Pass the ball around multiple times. Remember if you have the ball you can only say one word.

PART 3: CRAFT (15 minutes)

SUPPLIES: Paper Plates, crayons, wooden craft sticks, wooden craft spoons, tape, and glue.

PREPARATION: Cut paper plates in half

INSTRUCTION:

1. Color paper plates that have been cut in half, the color green. This will be the tree tops.
2. Tape craft stick to the back of paper plate. This will be the tree trunk. Color stick brown
3. Draw face on wooden spoon and color spoon to be Zacchaeus. Glue/Tape Zacchaeus in tree top or cut a slit in the paper plate to put Zacchaeus in.

EXTRA ACTIVITY: Coloring sheet on page 6 of this lesson.





The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost. Luke 19:10