

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus: Welcomes

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
-John 14:6

Summer Sunday Schedule:

10:45-10:55 - Welcome/arrival
11:00 - 11:20 - Project Station (classroom)
11:25-11:45 - Game Station (LG1)
11:50-12:10 - Story Station (LG2)
12:15 - Back to room for dismissal

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading Luke 19:1-10. Note your observations about Jesus' character and what truths you see so you can share them with the kids.

This passage reveals that Jesus welcomes anyone and everyone with open arms. He came to seek and save the lost. He wants us to always turn toward Him and follow Him. Like us, Zacchaeus was a sinner searching for love and acceptance. As he encountered the love of Jesus, Zacchaeus turned from his sinful ways and Jesus gave Him new life in His name. We can also thank Jesus for the new life He gives to all who believe in Him!



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Ask the class: *Can you think of a time you haven't been able to see something you really wanted to see? How did it make you feel?* (Allow responses)

Summarize Luke 19:1-10 and then discuss the following questions in table groups or together as a class:

Why was it so amazing that Jesus accepted and called for Zacchaeus?

What obstacles stop people from truly follow Jesus?

How can you go out of your way to know Jesus more?

Why is it important not just to hear about Jesus, but to fully seek Him like Zacchaeus did?



ACTIVITY:

Jesus is....

- Tree cut-out
- Leaf sections
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Glue sticks

Ask the class: What does this story tell us about Jesus? Make a list on the board of ideas they come up with. For example:

- He welcomes everyone
- He seeks and saves the lost
- He forgives
- He calls us each by name
- He is kind

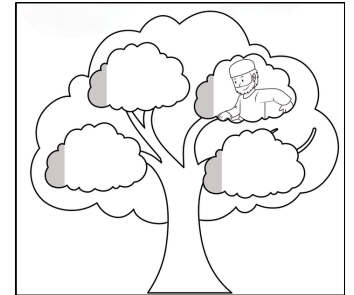
Pass out the tree and leaf cut-outs. Set markers and colored pencils on each table.

Have the children color both cut-outs, leaving the three blank sections of the tree blank.

Then, have them pick 3 things that stood out to them the most about Jesus' character and write them in the blanks on the tree.

Have them apply glue to the gray areas indicated on the tree template and attach the leaf sections over these areas to create flaps that can be lifted.

Afterward, talk about how Jesus included Zacchaeus by calling him down and out of that tree. Jesus came to find lost people and save them. We are all lost without Jesus! But no matter what we have done in the past, Jesus loves us and wants to forgive us!



Prayer 101

Prayer Wall

- Blank paper
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Soft worship or piano music (on your phone)
- White wall tape

Let's help our children learn to pray by taking time to draw out their prayers.

Give each child a blank sheet of paper and set colored pencils and markers on each table.

Talk together as a class about what we can pray to God about:

- We can talk to Him about what He is like - how He is good, loving, kind, etc.
- We can talk to Him about how he helps us...
- We can thank Him for our family, friends, school... (be specific!)
- We can ask for help with....anything! (be specific!)

Have the children spend a few minutes drawing a picture (or multiple pictures!) of their prayer to God. Encourage them to be praying while they are drawing. Consider playing soft worship or piano music (on your phone) while they are working.

Afterward, ask if anyone wants to share what they prayed for. Have them come and tape their picture to the prayer wall (make sure to use the white wall tape!)

End by praying together as a class for some of the prayer requests that were drawn and placed on the wall.

