

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Bible Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Date: 7/26/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

2nd Service

Memory Verse:

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

Jesus...

Welcomes

Schedule

- Welcome/Arrival.....10:45-10:55**
- Story Station (LG2).....11:00-11:20**
- Project Station (Classroom).....11:25-11:45**
- Game Station (LG1).....11:50-12:10**
- Back to Classroom:.....12:15**
 - Dismissal**

Notes and Reminders

We are so excited to have you join us in discipling our PreK and Kindergarten children as we journey through the life of Christ this summer! We encourage you to pray for the children's hearts to be open to new understanding of why we love and obey God!

////// **SUMMER SUNDAYS 2026**

SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

“Zacchaeus was a wee little man ...”

This line from a popular children’s song is lighthearted and catchy, but it can make Zacchaeus seem more innocent than he likely was. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. In Jewish culture, a tax collector was the kind of person families warned their children about. People thought of tax collectors as thieves and extortionists—people who had betrayed the Jews to work with the Romans.

And yet, chief tax collector as he was, Zacchaeus became a conduit of one of Jesus’ most beautiful moments of mercy and grace. Luke writes that Zacchaeus “was trying to see who Jesus was.” Something inside Zacchaeus was stirring, and he wanted answers. But the crowd blocked Zacchaeus’ view, so he did something about it: he climbed a sycamore tree. He put himself in a place to see Jesus more clearly.

Our spiritual lives often require similar action. We must learn to constantly position ourselves to see Jesus more clearly by leaning into Scripture and spending time alone with God. We make time for prayer and for fellowship with other believers who encourage and challenge us. We guard our hearts as we choose what content to consume. These disciplines don’t make Jesus love us more; they simply help us be in a better position to see and obey Him.

True obedience involves trusting Jesus and doing what He says. We don’t negotiate the terms. We move when He speaks. Our obedience becomes a blank check, already signed, ready for Him to fill in however He desires. That kind of surrender is where transformation begins. This week, similar to how Zacchaeus climbed the tree, help put your kids in the best position to see Jesus so that He might lead them to repentance and transform their hearts.

OUTLINE



Welcome and Arrival

10:45-10:55

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

Choose one or several of the following activities to organize as the children arrive.

Order the Items

- Gather a variety of items of different heights from the room. Invite boys and girls to put the items in order from shortest to tallest. Provide different items for kids to do the activity again. If time permits, assist them in arranging themselves in order from shortest to tallest.
- **SAY** In our Bible story today, we are going to learn about a man named Zacchaeus who climbed a tree. Does anyone know why Zacchaeus climbed a tree? [Allow responses.] Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So, Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and called out to him. They went to Zacchaeus' house, and Zacchaeus realized the wrong choices he had made. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus, and Jesus invited Zacchaeus to follow him. God wants us to follow Him, too. When we turn from our sin and believe in Jesus, we become followers of God.

Guess What's in the Bag

- Place several coins in the paper bag. Encourage children to reach into the bag without looking and feel what is inside. Invite kids to guess what it is.
- **SAY** Welcome to church! What do you feel inside the bag? There are coins in the bag. Our Bible story today is about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus took people's money for taxes. He wanted to see Jesus. When Jesus walked by, He looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, come down! I'm going to your house today.' Jesus invited Zacchaeus to follow him. Jesus has the power to forgive Zacchaeus of his sins. Our big picture question and answer is, What is justification? Justification is when God says that our sins are forgiven.





Play an Action Game

- Guide kids to do the following actions: jump three times, climb up high, look from side-to-side, point to the ground, climb down low, and cheer. Practice the sequence several times; then add in the words from the Bible story. "Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short." (jump three times) "Zacchaeus climbed a tall tree." (climb up high) "Now he could see." (look from side-to-side) "Jesus said come down." (point to the ground) "Zacchaeus hurried down from the tree." (climb down low) "Zacchaeus was happy to see Jesus. Jesus said, 'You are saved today!'" (cheer) Practice doing the actions very slowly, then very quickly, for an added challenge.
- SAY You just acted out our Bible story. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed a tall tree. When Jesus walked by, He looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, come down! I'm going to your house today.' Jesus invited Zacchaeus to follow Him Jesus came to find people who are lost and save them.

Story Station (Large Group 2).....11:00-11:20

Project Station (Classroom)

11:25-11:45

Make Trees

- Place the leaves and cardboard tubes from you bin on each table. Distribute glue sticks to each child. Invite kids to glue the leaves to the cardboard tube to make a tree.
- SAY Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So, Zacchaeus climbed a tall tree. When Jesus walked by, He looked up and saw Zacchaeus. Jesus said, 'Zacchaeus, come down! I'm going to your house today.' Zacchaeus was so happy to see Jesus. Jesus invited Zacchaeus to follow Him.

Discuss what the children learned during the Bible Story today. Use the main Takeaways as a guide to your discussion.

- Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart, which changed his whole life!
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost.
- Only Jesus has the power to take a dirty, sinful heart and give a new, clean heart.
- Jesus welcomes anyone, even the worst of sinners.

(Sample Questions are listed on the next page!)





Sample Questions:

- 1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
- 2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
- 3. Who did Zacchaeus want to see? (Jesus)
- 4. What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? (He climbed a tree.)
- 5. Zacchaeus took money he wasn't supposed to. What did he say he would do after he met Jesus? (He said he would give back all he had taken and more.)

Practice the Memory Verse

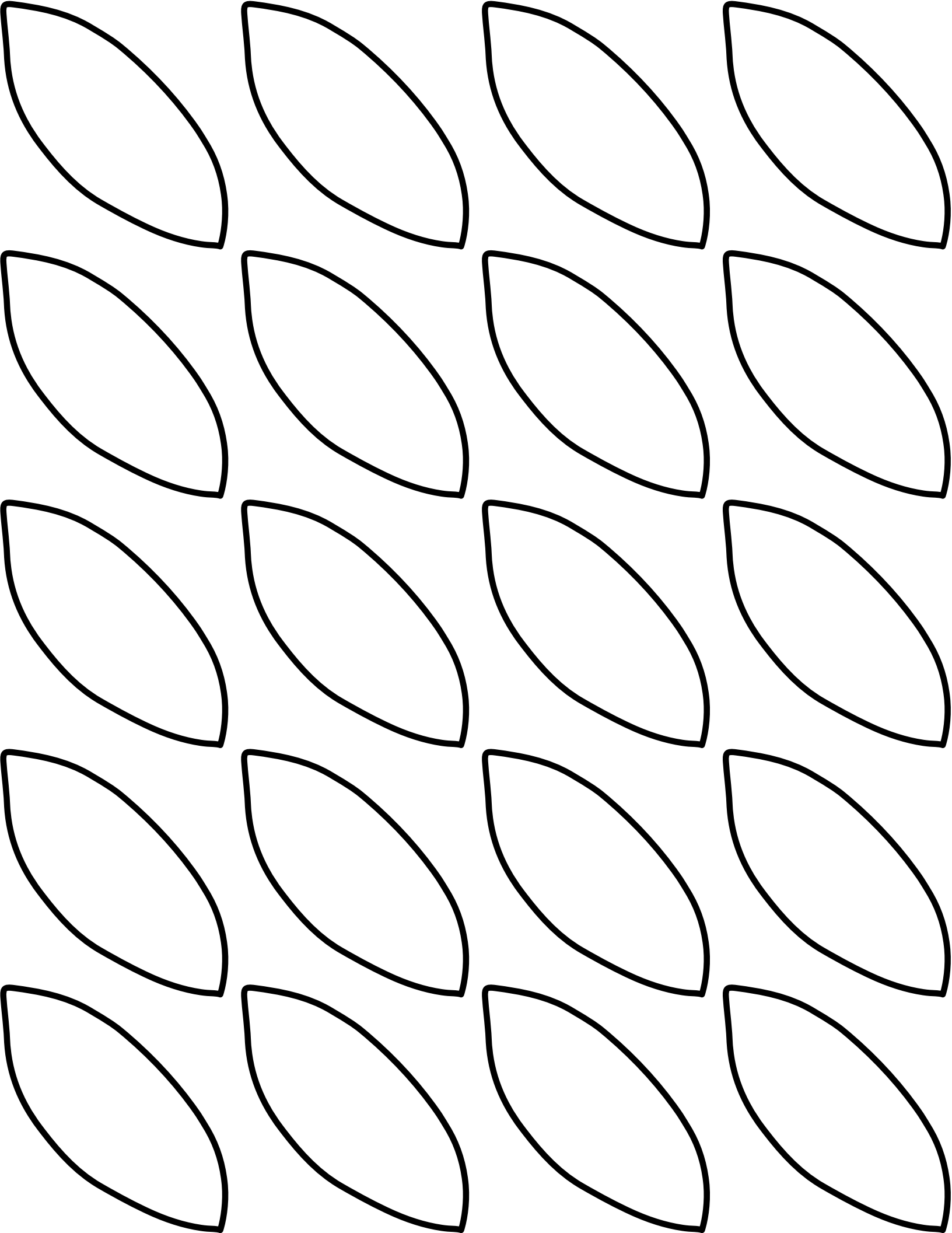
- Find the colorful cards with the memory verse in your bin Tape the cards high up on the walls all around the room with painter's tape. Read the memory verse aloud from the poster on the wall and lead children to say it with you. Invite kids to look high and low to find all the colorful cards. When they point to a card, take it down. Put the cards in order and point to each word as you repeat the passage together.
- SAY You did a great job seeing the cards! You reminded me of Zacchaeus and how he climbed up in a tree to see Jesus. He knew Jesus was very special. Jesus is the only person who never sinned. God made Jesus to be sin for us. Jesus' death and resurrection show that our sin is fully paid for. Everyone who trusts Jesus as Lord, is saved!

Game Station (Large Group 1)11:50-12:10

Back to Classroom12:15

Dismissal!





“I am the way, and the truth,

and the life.

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John 14:6