

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Bible Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Date: 7/26/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

1st 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.....8:55-9:05**
- **Story Station (LG2).....9:10-9:30**
- **Project Station (Classroom).....9:35-9:55**
- **Game Station (LG1).....10:00-10:20**
- **Back to Classroom:.....10:20-10:45**
 - **Snack and Transition to 2nd Service**

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

8:55-9:05

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.

Call My Name

- Invite kids to stand in a line. Call one child by name and give her simple instructions to follow such as hop three times, take five steps, spin around two times, blink your eyes four times, and so on. Continue calling kids by name and giving different instructions for them to follow. Consider calling several names at a time. (Note: Adjust the movements based on the abilities of the kids in your class.)
- **SAY** When I called your name and told you what to do, you did it! You followed directions and did what I asked you to do. Great work! Today we will hear a true story from the Bible about a time when Jesus called a man's name, and the man followed Him.

Pin Zacchaeus on A Tree

- Hang the paper tree from your bin at a child's eye level. Give each child a Zacchaeus figure with tape rolled on the back. Invite a child to close his eyes and "pin" Zacchaeus to the tree without looking. Give each child a turn. Celebrate each child no matter how close or far away he places Zacchaeus on the tree.
- **SAY** Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see Jesus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and called his name. Then Jesus went with Zacchaeus to his house. People wondered why Jesus would go to the house of a sinner. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his sins. We are all sinners and need God's forgiveness. Jesus provided the way for us to be forgiven when He died on the cross and rose again.





Line Them Up

- Help kids work as a team to stand shoulder to shoulder in a line, in a specific order. First, order them in rainbow color order according to the color of their shirt or dress. Then, arrange them in birthday order from January to December. Finally, arrange them from tallest to shortest.
- **SAY** God made each person unique and different! Zacchaeus was a very short man. He climbed up in a tree so he could see Jesus. **JESUS INVITED ZACCHAEUS TO FOLLOW HIM** when he saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Jesus invites us to follow Him too! Jesus came to save sinners. He died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven when we turn from our sin and trust in Him.

Story Station (Large Group 2).....9:10-9:30

Project Station (Classroom)

9:35-9:55

Decorate Your Name

- Help children write their first name or first initial in large letters on cardstock. Invite each child to decorate their name using dot markers, stickers, and decorative tape. Set names aside to dry.
- **SAY** Jesus called Zacchaeus by name when He saw him in the tree. Jesus said, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I am going to your house.' Zacchaeus obeyed Jesus, and they went to his house. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was a sinner and needed to be forgiven. We are all sinners and need forgiveness. Jesus provided the way for us to be forgiven when He died on a cross and rose from the dead. We can each follow God, like Zacchaeus did, when we turn from our sins and believe and trust in 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)10:00-10:20

Back to Classroom10:20-10:45

Snack and Transition to 2nd Service!





