

Bible Discovery

Hold up the Bible. **Today we'll hear a story from the Bible about a man who wanted to see Jesus. His name was Zacchaeus. People thought Zacchaeus was a big meanie!**

- Have everyone make mean faces.
- **But Jesus loves everyone.** (*Thank you, Jesus!*) **So he was kind to Zacchaeus.**
- Have everyone make kind faces.
- **Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus' life. Let's find out what happened. We'll tell the story together.**

Tell this story in a way that's similar to "We're Going on a Bear Hunt." Have everyone pat their lap once then clap their hands once (and so on) to make a beat as they repeat each line after you.

 Read aloud Luke 19:1.

Let's make our way through the town. Do what I do!

- Pat your legs, then clap your hands as you say this rhyme.
We're walking through Jericho. (*We're walking through Jericho.*)
And what do we see? (*And what do we see?*)
We see Jesus (*We see Jesus*)
Coming toward me. (*Coming toward me.*)
- Place your hand above your eyes as if seeing someone.
- Put your hands on your lap.

A man named Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was in his town. He wanted to see him. Let's find out more about Zacchaeus. Do what I do!

- Pat your legs, then clap your hands as you say this rhyme.
Zacchaeus wasn't nice. (*Zacchaeus wasn't nice.*)
He was really mean. (*He was really mean.*)
"Give me more money." (*"Give me more money."*)
"And I'll keep some for me!" (*"And I'll keep some for me!"*)
- Look sneaky, then pretend to count money and put it in your pocket.
- Put your hands on your lap.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Jesus Befriends Zacchaeus" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

 Read the verse from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. Don't worry—we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.



Zacchaeus made a lot of wrong choices. He stole money from people. It's no wonder people didn't like him! But **Jesus loves everyone**. (Thank you, Jesus!) He likes everyone, too. Let's find out what happened next. Do what I do!

 Read aloud Luke 19:3-4.

- Pat your legs, then clap your hands as you say this rhyme.
Jesus was coming. (Jesus was coming.)
Zacchaeus had to see! (Zacchaeus had to see!)
He ran up ahead (He ran up ahead)
And climbed up in a tree. (And climbed up in a tree.)
- Stand, run in place, then pretend to climb up a tree and look out.
- Remain standing, and put your hands at your sides.

Show the Bible Story poster. **Jesus was on his way. Zacchaeus couldn't see because of the crowd, so he climbed a tree. Let's see what Jesus did when he saw Zacchaeus. Do what I do!**

- Pat your legs, then clap your hands as you say this rhyme.
Jesus walked by (Jesus walked by)
And looked up in that tree. (And looked up in that tree.)
"Zacchaeus, come down!" ("Zacchaeus, come down!")
"Spend some time with me!" ("Spend some time with me!")
- Pretend to be Zacchaeus and climb down out of the tree. Then sit again.
- Show the Bible Story poster.
- Put your hands on your hips.

 Read aloud Luke 19:6-7.

People were upset. Zacchaeus was a meanie! And Jesus wanted to go to *a meanie's* house? Why would Jesus want to spend time with a meanie? People were surprised that Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus. But **Jesus loves everyone**, (Thank, you Jesus!) including mean Zacchaeus. Let's see what happened when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house.

- Pat your legs, then clap your hands as you say this rhyme.
They went to the house. (They went to the house.)
Zacchaeus was so pleased. (Zacchaeus was so pleased.)
"I'll give to the poor! ("I'll give to the poor!")
"And I'll be mean no more!" ("And I'll be mean no more!")
- Reach into your pocket and pretend to pull out money and give it to people.
- Put your hands on your lap.

Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus. And Jesus' love can change us, too. Jesus loves nice people and mean people. Jesus loves everyone. (Thank, you Jesus!)



Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.