



MAKE IT TRUE

After children have participated in Make It Fun, gather them on a rug or in the corner of the room.

Encourage the kids to have fun singing with you and then share the Bible Story.

Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

FIRST LOOK OFFERS A WEEKLY BIBLE STORY ON OUR DVD TITLED "WONDER, LOOK AT GOD'S STORY," WHICH YOU MAY CHOOSE TO USE RATHER THAN A LIVE STORYTELLER THIS WEEK. THIS DVD IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT WWW.ORANGESTORE.ORG



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MAKE IT TRUE

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

KEY QUESTION

WHO DOES JESUS LOVE?

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12, NIV

BIBLE STORY FOCUS

**Jesus loves us when we do something wrong.
Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10**

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: CD player, this month's worship song, "Jesus Loves Me (Always)," downloaded from the Website, and the motions for the song

LEADER: "Good morning, everyone. How are you doing today? (Pause.) It's LOVE DAY! Wahoo! Happy Valentine's Day! This is an awesome day where we tell everyone how much we love them. And there is someone who loves all of us no matter what. It's Jesus! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Yes, He does! Let's sing about that!

Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me (Always)."

"Wow! You are doing great with this song. It's so fun to sing about Jesus' love on Love Day! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Happy Valentine's Day!"

BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, bucket, and plastic gold coins

STORYTELLER: (Place Bible on the floor in front of you.) "Hello, friends! Today's story is found in the Bible. And we know that everything we read about in the Bible is absolutely true. I want to tell you about a real guy who lived a long, long time ago and his name was Zacchaeus.

(Give two coins to each kid.) "Let's pretend that you lived way back in Zacchaeus' time and that you were grownups with real jobs. Can you help me out? (Pause.) Okay, so if you have a grownup job, then you get paid, right? (Pause.) So the money in your hands is money you worked hard to get. Now Zacchaeus, the guy from the Bible, well, he wasn't the nicest guy. He didn't have many friends at all. Do you know why? (Pause.) Because Zacchaeus was a tax collector. That meant that every time you got paid, it was Zacchaeus' job was to take some of that hard-earned money for the king. So everyone put one of your coins back in my bucket. (Pass the bucket around and collect the money.)

"The people had to give Zacchaeus part of what they earned to pay their taxes. Nobody liked this. But here's the worst part. Zacchaeus wasn't just collecting money for the king. He was actually taking more than he was supposed to and keeping the extra money for himself. Let's pass this around again and put your last coin in. (Pass the bucket around and collect the money.)



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"Wait a second! Did you guys see that? *(Pause.)* Here's what he did. Zacchaeus would take MORE money than he was supposed to, send some of it to the guys in charge like he was supposed to for taxes, and then KEEP the rest for himself. Zacchaeus was STEALING! And people were really mad at him.

"Can you show me your angry faces? *(Pause.)* Exactly, they were mad because he was taking all their money. One day, Jesus came to town. Everyone really wanted to see Him. Even Zacchaeus the thief wanted to see Him. But there was just one problem. Zacchaeus was short.

"He couldn't see Jesus over the crowd. So he climbed up in a tree to get a better view. Let's stand up together and pretend to climb a tree. Wow, the view is MUCH better up here. Zacchaeus could see Jesus much better from up there. And you will NEVER guess what happened! Have a seat, everyone. When Jesus walked by the tree that Zacchaeus was in, He looked up in the tree and he said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm coming to visit you at your house today.' The people in the crowd couldn't believe it! Jesus was talking to a thief. Can you show me your surprised faces? *(Pause.)* Great! Why would Jesus want to spend any time with someone like that? *(Pause.)* Didn't He know what Zacchaeus had done? *(Pause.)*

"But Zacchaeus did come down from that tree. And Jesus did go to his house that day. Because Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong. Does Jesus love you when you get a time out? *(Pause.)* Does Jesus love you when a pitch a fit when you don't get your way? *(Pause.)* Or when you don't share your toys or when you don't obey your mommy or daddy? YES! Jesus still loves you. And He told Zacchaeus that He loved him too and that he needed to make things right and apologize. Zacchaeus needed to give back the money he'd stolen. And he did! He gave them back even MORE than he'd stolen. That's what happens when you know Jesus loves you. It changes you and makes you a nicer person. Jesus loves you when you follow all the rules AND when you mess up. Jesus loves everyone. **Who does Jesus love?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus loves everyone."

STORYTELLER: "Wait, I didn't hear that. Who does Jesus love?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus loves everyone."

STORYTELLER: "That is SO amazing. I think we should tell God how happy that makes us by praying to Him right now. Let's pray.



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"God, You are such a loving and amazing and BIG God. Thanks for sending Jesus to show us that He loves us even when we mess up. We know that You love us no matter what, even if we make mistakes or disobey. Because **Jesus loves everyone**. And we love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."