

# JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK  
**TWO**  
FEBRUARY 2018

LARGE GROUP  
**2**  
YEAR-OLDS



## first look™

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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME



**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus  
**LUKE 19:1-10**

**MEMORY VERSE**

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

**JOHN 15:12, NIV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who does Jesus love?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves everyone.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience**

For Leaders Only  
Monthly Overview  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.  
Climb  
Stack It High  
Cash It Out

**10**  
MIN

**WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Always


**10**  
MIN

**STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

Bible Story  
Prayer

**25**  
MIN

**GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.  
Bubble High  
Handprint Tree   
Love It Loud  
Lollipops

**HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience**

Going Home  
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus  
**LUKE 19:1-10**

Gather children for a Large Group time that includes interactive worship and the Bible story. Some kids (*especially the younger ones*) may wander. That's OK. They're still listening and learning!

*First Look offers weekly Bible story videos on the DVD titled "Wonder! Look at God's Story." This DVD is available for purchase at [OrangeStore.org](http://OrangeStore.org).*

## MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you."

**JOHN 15:12, NIV**

## WORSHIP

**WHAT YOU NEED:** CD player and this month's worship song, "Always," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video of this song is available on the "Everybody Sing!" Dance Moves DVD.

**LEADER:** "Good morning, everyone. It's so great to see you here today! I can't wait to hear another story about how Jesus loves everyone today. He loves you and you and you and you and you! (*Point to friends.*) He loves every one of us always. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.** Great job! Let's sing.

*(Lead children in singing "Always.")*

"Wow! You are doing great with this song. It's so fun to sing together with you! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**"

## KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bible, jumbo play money, and a tree branch

**LEADER:** (*With the Bible and play money in hand*) "Hello, my friends. Let's sit together and hear our TRUE Bible story today. It's an awesome one for sure. Now, in this awesome TRUE story, there is a guy named Zacchaeus. That's kind of a crazy name. Can you say, 'Zacchaeus'?"

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

**CHILDREN:** "Zacchaeus."

**LEADER:** "Great! Zacchaeus had a pretty important job. He was a tax collector. That meant he had to collect money for taxes from everyone in town. So it might have looked something like this.

*(Hold up the jumbo paper money and then pull two bills out.)*

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"Zacchaeus would take the people's money. Now, this worked great until Zacchaeus started to become greedy. You see, he wanted to keep some of the money for himself. (*Take the rest of the stack of bills, put it with the first two, and then stick it in your back pocket or in your lap.*)

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

15 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus  
**LUKE 19:1-10**

"Zacchaeus took more and more money from the people! In fact, he **STOLE** from them! Is all this money really his? *(Pause.)* No way! He was stealing. This made the people **SUPER** angry at Zacchaeus, and nobody liked him."

"One day, Jesus came to town and everyone rushed to see Him. Quick, let's move over here so we can see. *(Gather the children to stand in a group.)* Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short *(crouch down so that you're shorter than the children)* to see over the crowd!

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Love each other as I have loved you."

**JOHN 15:12, NIV**

"So Zacchaeus climbed up into a tree! *(Stand up to full height and hold the tree branch.)* And from the tree he could see Jesus over the crowd! Now here's the crazy, amazing part! When Jesus came by and looked up in that tree, He saw Zacchaeus. Do you think Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had done wrong things? *(Pause.)* Yep. Jesus knew. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus anyway.

"He said, 'Zacchaeus, please come down! I'm going to your house today.' After all he had done, Jesus still loved Zacchaeus and wanted to spend time with him. Great job, everyone. Let's head back to our seats!

**KEY QUESTION**

Who does Jesus love?

*(Encourage the children to sit back down with you.)* "Zacchaeus came down from the that tree and spent time with Jesus. And after spending that time with Jesus, Zacchaeus didn't want to be selfish and steal any more. He even went and gave the people back the money he had stolen plus a little more!

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus loves everyone.

"And you know what? Sometimes your friends will mess up too. They won't share, or they'll take the bigger snack, or they'll say something mean and hurt your feelings. Remember, that person is your friend and, just like Jesus, we should love and forgive them. Isn't that an awesome story? If you liked it, let me see a two thumbs up! *(Pause as children respond.)*

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

"So tell me: **Who does Jesus love?"**

**CHILDREN: "Jesus loves everyone."**

**LEADER:** "Yes, **Jesus loves everyone.** I'm so glad that's true! Let's pray and thank God for sending his Son, Jesus."

**PRAYER**

**LEADER:** "Dear God, thank You for Zacchaeus. He messed up, but Jesus still forgave and loved him. Thank You, God, for always forgiving us when we mess up too. You sent Jesus, Your Son, to show us how much You love us. That's awesome. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."