

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

WEEK

TWO

FEBRUARY 2018

SMALL GROUP

3-5

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 the Tree
More Counting
Ice Cream

10
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Always
Every Day

10
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Introductory Sketch
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.
Memory Verse Hopping
Zacchaeus in the Tree
Balancing the Scale
Wee Little Man
Sharing Your Sweets
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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1. CLIMB THE TREE

WHAT YOU NEED: Brown and green butcher paper, wall tape, scissors, pencil, and sticky notes in any color

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Use the pencil to draw a tree trunk onto the brown butcher paper. Draw a treetop onto the green butcher paper. Cut out both pieces of the tree. Tape the trunk onto the wall about two feet from the bottom. Tape the treetop on top of the trunk to create an entire tree. Be sure the tree is about three feet tall when put together. The top of the tree will be about five feet from the floor when finished.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a sticky note with their name on it and ask them to stand next to the tree. Challenge the children to jump as high as they can and place the sticky note at the highest point of their jump. Be sure each child has a chance to jump.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "There is a tree in our Bible story today, like the one on the wall!" (*Point.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I love to climb trees. Let's pretend to climb this one! (*Give each child a sticky note.*) Stand next to the tree and jump as high as you can. I want you to put the sticky note on the tree when you jump, so we can see how high you can climb. (*Demonstrate.*) Now it is your turn!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WOW! You can climb high! There is a man who climbs a tree in our Bible story today. I cannot wait for you to find out all about him."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by challenging the children to pretend to climb a tree as they move to the story area.

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SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

15 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

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Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10



PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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2. MORE COUNTING

WHAT YOU NEED: "Counting Together" Activity Pages, white cardstock, and pom-poms or plastic coins (45 pieces total)

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Counting Together" pages on cardstock and cut on dotted lines. Spread out the cards on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the cards on the table. Encourage the children to place pom-poms or coins on top of the spots on the first card and count them. Then point to the corresponding number written on the card. Repeat with the remaining cards. Then ask the children to add two more dots to each card to introduce the idea of more. Dump the pom-poms/coins back into the center of the table when finished and repeat as time and interest allow.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I have a fun counting game for us to play!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Do you see these dots on the card? (*Point.*) Let's count them together. (*Pause to count.*) Great job! Let's place these pom-poms/coins on the dots. Now, do you see this number? (*Point. Say the number.*) That's the same number of pom-poms we counted out on the card. Let's place the pom-poms/coins on the rest of the cards together. (*Pause as the children complete the rest of the cards.*) Great job! Actually, I wonder if we could put two more pom-poms/coins on each card. Do you think we can fit MORE on each card?"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did a great job counting out the pom-poms/coins. And then we added MORE dots to each card! We made more room to fit them. In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a man who wanted more and more. Let's go find out what he wanted more of!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out a number between 1 and 10 and having the children count out loud to that number.



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15 MINUTES

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EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

3. ICE CREAM

WHAT YOU NEED: Medium-sized tub; large white, brown, and pink pom-poms; orange, pink, white, blue, and yellow paper; hole punch; brown construction paper; scissors; and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the pom-poms into the tub. The pom-poms will represent Neapolitan ice cream. Use the hole punch to punch random holes in the colored paper. Save the hole cutouts and place them in the tub. These will represent ice cream sprinkles. Cut the brown construction paper in half. Roll each half into a cone shape and secure with tape. Make several cones. These will represent ice cream cones. Place the cones in the tub.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to play in the tub with their hands. Help them to try to assemble an ice cream cone with sprinkles on top. Be sure each child has a turn to assemble an ice cream cone.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s all scream for ICE CREAM!” (*Scream with children.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “I have a tub full of things that we can make a pretend ice cream cone with. Let’s build our ice cream cones!” (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “YUMMY! Those ice cream cones look so sweet! We can be a different kind of sweet to people. We can be kind. In today’s Bible story, Jesus was sweet to someone who was not very nice to other people. I cannot wait for you to hear our TRUE story from the Bible!”

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking the children to walk to the story area while pretending to lick an ice cream cone.



first look™
SMALL GROUP



WEEK
TWO
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3-5
YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**HEAR
FROM GOD**
MEMORY VERSE
REVIEW



MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

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1. MEMORY VERSE HOPPING

WHAT YOU NEED: 10 pieces of construction paper and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Use the scissors to cut 10 large hearts out of the construction paper. Lay the hearts out in a hopscotch pattern on the floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Line up the children behind the hopscotch hearts on the floor. Review this month's verse as a group and then let the children take turns hopping on the hearts as you say the verse together. Let every child have a turn hopping and saying the verse.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "This month, we're learning an awesome verse about love. It says: Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12. Let's take turns hopping on the hearts one at a time as we say the verse together."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We should love each other as Jesus has loved us. We can love others because WE are loved! **Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

TALK
ABOUT GOD
BIBLE STORY
REVIEW



CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

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2. ZACCHAEUS IN THE TREE

WHAT YOU NEED: “Zacchaeus” and “Tree Label” Activity Pages, white cardstock, scissors, white dessert-sized paper plates, green construction paper, yarn, large craft sticks, clear tape, glue sticks, Avery® #5106 labels or equivalent, and a hole punch

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the “Zacchaeus” Activity Page onto the white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Copy the “Tree Label” Activity Page onto the labels. Each child will need one Zacchaeus and one label. Punch a hole on the circle on the top of each Zacchaeus. Cut the yarn into one-foot sections. Feed one end of the yarn into the hole in Zacchaeus from the back and tie a knot at the front of the Zacchaeus cutout. Tape the top of the craft stick to back of the dessert plate.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a plate and the green paper. Encourage the children to tear the paper into smaller pieces. Help the children glue the pieces to the front of the plate. Punch a hole in the front of the plate towards the side. Feed the other side of the yarn that is attached to the Zacchaeus through the plate starting from the front. Tie a knot at the back of the plate. Help the children place a label onto the front of their craft stick. Encourage the children to pull the yarn from the back of the plate to make Zacchaeus climb the tree.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Retell the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “We heard a wonderful story today! Zacchaeus was not very nice to people, but Jesus loves everyone!”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “We are going to make a tree for Zacchaeus to climb just like in our story. (Do activity.) Great job! Now pull the yarn at the back of the plate. (Demonstrate.) It makes Zacchaeus climb the tree! Great job!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Zacchaeus took money from people, but Jesus was kind to him anyway! Jesus asked him to come down from the tree that he had

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25 MINUTES

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an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home

climbed and to take Jesus to his house. Even though Zacchaeus made bad choices, Jesus loved him anyway. He loves everyone! **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
ACTIVITY**



THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

BIBLE STORY

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Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 15:12, NIV

KEY QUESTION

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BASIC TRUTH

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3. BALANCING THE SCALE

WHAT YOU NEED: A balance/scale (see this month’s Pinterest board for ideas) and beans, washers, or Little People® figures (or any item you have several of that will fit on the scale)

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the balance/scale in the center of your table. Place the items you’ve gathered to measure nearby. Show the children how to place items on each side of the balance to make it balanced. What happens if you carefully place another item on one side? What happens when you add something to the other side? Give the children specific instructions as you add or take away items to practice balancing the scales.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Do you know what this is? (Point.) It’s a scale! Watch what happens if we add something to one side and not the other. (Demonstrate.) Now, watch what happens when we add something to the other side. (Demonstrate.) It’s balanced! Let’s take turns adding to or taking away from the scale. Listen carefully and I’ll give you an instruction to follow!”

(Call on different children to add or take away things from either side of the scale.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Great job, everyone! You are great balancers. We each took turns adding and taking away from, just like Zacchaeus was adding to his own money and taking away from others. I’m so glad he met Jesus and learned how much Jesus loved him! What did Zacchaeus do? (Pause.) He gave back the money he had taken and added MORE than what he owed! He learned that **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**”

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25 MINUTES

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MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

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BASIC TRUTH

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4. WEE LITTLE MAN

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Teach the song "Wee Little Man" with the movements. If you need a refresher, visit our Vimeo page: <https://vimeo.com/59452658>

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he (*hold up right hand and make a backwards "C" with thumb and forefinger*)

He climbed up in a sycamore tree (*pretend to climb a tree*) for the Lord he wanted to see (*hold flat hand over eyes*)

And when the Savior passed that way (*march in place*) He looked up in the tree (*look up*)

And he said, "ZACCHAEUS, YOU COME DOWN!" (*point finger*)
For I am going to your house today, for I am going to your house today (*march*)

Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I am going to teach you a super fun song today that is all about our Bible story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone sing with me and do what I do! (*Sing the song and do the actions as described above.*) Great job! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice work! Zacchaeus did not make very good choices, but Jesus loved him anyway. **Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!**"



PRELUDE

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**LIVE
FOR GOD
APPLICATION
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BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

5. SHARING YOUR SWEETS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Donut Label" Activity Page, Avery #5160 labels or equivalent, paper plates (2 per child), scissors, crayons or markers, crinkle paper, colored confetti, and glue sticks

(NOTE: You can make confetti by using a hole punch to punch out holes from different colored construction paper.)

MEMORY VERSE

"Love each other as I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12, NIV

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut the center out of each paper plate with the scissors to create a donut shape. You'll need two "donuts" per child. Copy the "Donut Label" Activity Page onto the labels. You'll need two labels per child. Set out the remaining supplies on the tables.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Explain that today you're going to make two donuts: one to keep and one to give away to a friend. Hand out donut shapes to each child. Encourage them to color their donuts and then decorate them using the confetti and crinkle paper, using the glue sticks to secure their decorations to their donut creations. As the children are working, ask them who they want to give their donuts to.

KEY QUESTION

Who does Jesus love?

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we're going to make some sweet treats to keep and to give away. Raise your hand if you love to eat donuts. (Pause.) Me too! Donuts are so yummy. I want you to color and decorate two donuts. One will be for you to keep and one is to give away to a friend!"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, let's color our donuts. And then we can put the confetti or crinkle paper on top to look like sprinkles. When you're done, you can put a label on each of your donuts. Raise your hand and tell me who you'd like to give your donut to."

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Your donuts look beautiful! I think your friends will be so happy to have these sweet creations! This month we're talking all about how much Jesus loves us and wants to be our friend forever. Jesus chose to be friends with Zacchaeus when others didn't, because **Jesus loves everyone**. So tell me: **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone.**"

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

**PRAY
TO GOD**
PRAYER
ACTIVITY



REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

BIBLE STORY

Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.

Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

WHAT YOU NEED: “Memory Verse Card” paper clipped in your Bible at John 15:12, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen for each small group

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! That means we get to go to our special spot. Let’s pretend we’re Zacchaeus from the Bible story and we’re looking for Jesus like this. (*Demonstrate looking for something with your hand over your eyes as you look from side-to-side.*) Ready to look for Jesus? (*Pause.*) Follow me!

(*Pretend to look for Jesus as you walk.*)

“We made it! Now let’s sit down so we can talk about our story. One, two, three, sit down with me!

“Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming and he really, really wanted to see Him. There was just one problem. Zacchaeus was kind of short and he couldn’t see over all of the people. What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? (*Pause for responses.*) You’re right! He climbed a tree. And then something wonderful happened! What did Jesus do when He saw Zacchaeus in the tree? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Jesus told Zacchaeus to climb down because He wanted to go to his house. Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus, even though Zacchaeus had done something wrong. Why did Jesus do that? Because **Jesus loves everyone! Who does Jesus love?**”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “**Jesus loves everyone!**”

SGL: “Louder! **Who does Jesus love?**”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “**Jesus loves everyone!**”

(*Open Bible to verse.*)

SGL: “Yes! And in the Bible verse we’re learning this month Jesus says: Love each other as I have loved you, John 15:12.

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25 MINUTES

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TO GOD**
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REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

“Jesus wants you and me to love others the same way He loves us. And if Jesus loves you and me even when we do something wrong, that means we should love others even when they do something wrong. That can be hard to do, so let’s stand and say our verse with the motions, so we can remember to love others the way Jesus loves us! Just say what I say and do what I do.”

CHILDREN AND SGL: “Love each other *(give yourself a big hug)* as I *(point up with both fingers)* have loved you *(bring fingers down and point all over the room at all the kids)*, John 15:12.” *(Open your hands like a book.) (Repeat several times.)*

SGL: “You sound amazing! *(Clap for the children.)* I am so proud of you! Now it’s time to write in our journal and pray. Let’s sit down.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“When people do something wrong, it can make it harder for us to love them. Maybe they don’t share with us, or they say words that hurt our feelings, or they break something that is special to us. All of these things are wrong, but Jesus still wants us to love the people who do them the same way He loves them.

“Today we’re going to make a list of things that make it hard for us to love others. When we pray we can ask God to help us love everyone even when they do something wrong. When I say your name, tell me one thing that makes it hard for us to love others.

(Write each child’s name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“Thank you for helping make this list. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, we want to love everyone the way **Jesus loves everyone**. Sometimes it’s hard when they do something wrong like *(read the list the children made)*. Please help us to forgive others and love them anyway—the same way You forgive us and love us. Your love is so big, God! Help our love be big too. In Jesus’ name, amen.”