

Bible Point ▶

Jesus wants us to do what's right.

Bible Verse

“Never get tired of doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear how Zacchaeus did what was right,
 - play a game to learn the difference between right and wrong,
 - review the story of Zacchaeus, and
 - understand that Jesus' love will help them do what's right.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Zacchaeus learns right from wrong.

Luke
19:9-10



When Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house, many people were likely critical of him. Tax collectors were tainted by their association with the Roman government and usually cheated the people to make themselves rich. People probably doubted that Zacchaeus could ever change. They doubted that someone as bad as he was could respond in love to Jesus, but that's just what he did.

His decision to give up his wealth to help the poor and to make restitution for anything he had taken wrongfully was an expression of love in response to Jesus' love for him. Jesus loved him first, and Zacchaeus responded.

That's the way it works with us, too: Jesus loves us first, and then we respond, loving him in return. You can help your preschoolers begin to respond to Jesus in love just as Zacchaeus did!







Prayer

- Read Matthew 6:24.
- Zacchaeus turned away from his greed to follow Jesus. Is there something in your life that is competing with Jesus?
- How can you follow Jesus more closely?
- Pray: Lord, help me love and follow you with my whole heart. Let me show my devotion to you by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Heart Name Tags” (p. 152), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Puzzle Pieces —Review the story of Zacchaeus by putting puzzles together.	Story Pictures from Lessons 10 through 13 take-home pages, poster board, glue, scissors, sack	
	Option 2: Four Times More —Measure rice, and then pour out four times more.	Uncooked rice, scoops, spoons, measuring cups, bowls	
	Option 3: Cracker Coin Counters —Count cracker coins into bags.	Cheese-flavored Ritz Bits crackers, plastic sandwich bags, bowls, tray	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Contribute their puzzle pieces to a group effort.	Story Picture puzzles from Option 1, sack of Lesson 13 Story-Picture puzzle pieces	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Listen carefully to the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10, and correct the teacher’s “mistakes.”		
	Do the Bible Story —Decide which actions are right and which are wrong.		
Closing 	Give It Away —Help Whiskers learn ways to share God’s love and do what’s right.	Bags of crackers from Option 3, toys, stuffed animals, grocery sack	
	Handy Review —Practice a finger play, pray, and sing.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Heart Name Tags” (p. 152), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Use questions such as “Did you tell anyone you were sorry this week? Tell me about it” and “How did you show that you were sorry?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus wants us to do what’s right.**
- Hand out the heart name tags children made during Lesson 10, and help attach them to children’s clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “How do you feel when you do what’s right?” and “How did Zacchaeus do what was right?”

■ Option 1: Puzzle Pieces

SUPPLIES: Story Pictures from Lessons 10 through 13 take-home pages, poster board, glue, scissors, sack

Before class, photocopy each of the Story Pictures from Lessons 10 through 13 take-home pages. Glue each picture to a different color of poster board, and then cut the pictures into puzzles with about 10 pieces for each puzzle. When you cut the Story-Picture puzzle for Lesson 13, be sure to make enough puzzle pieces for each child in your class to have one piece.

Set out the Story-Picture puzzles for Lessons 10 through 12, and allow children to put them together. Place the Lesson 13 Story-Picture puzzle in a paper lunch sack, and set it aside. As the children are putting the puzzles together, ask them to tell you what they remember about the story of Zacchaeus.

■ Option 2: Four Times More

SUPPLIES: uncooked rice, scoops, spoons, measuring cups, bowls

Set out mixing bowls or shallow dishpans filled with several cups of uncooked rice. Provide scoops, spoons, ½-cup measuring cups, and empty bowls. Encourage children to measure and pour the rice. Measure out ½ cup of rice, and then have children help you measure four more. Explain that Zacchaeus gave back four times the amount of the money that he’d stolen. Tell children that ► Jesus wants us to do what’s right.



◀ BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



teacher tips

If you have more than 10 children in your class, make two puzzles using the Story Picture from Lesson 13. Put each puzzle in a separate bag to use in Setting the Stage.



◀ BIBLE POINT



■ Option 3: Cracker Coin Counters

SUPPLIES: cheese-flavored Ritz Bits crackers, plastic sandwich bags, bowls, tray

Before class, place enough cheese-flavored Ritz Bits crackers (to represent coins) into bowls so that there will be at least four crackers for each child. Set out a tray, the bowls of cracker coins, and the plastic sandwich bags. You should have a bag for each child in the class. Have children form pairs and help each other put four “coins” into the empty bags. Each filled bag can then be placed on the tray. As children work, explain that Zacchaeus did what was right when he gave his money to the poor and paid back the money he’d stolen—times four! Set the bags of cracker coins aside for the Closing activity.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

teacher tips

If you choose not to do Option 3, prepare the bags of “coins” before class. They will be used in the Closing activity.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: Story-Picture puzzles from Option 1, sack of Lesson 13 Story-Picture puzzle pieces

Tell children that you’ll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they’re doing and repeat the clap. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Form a circle, and ask:

• **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Put puzzles together; measured rice; made bags of cracker coins.)

Say: **If you put a puzzle together, hop to me and take a puzzle piece from this bag.** Pause while children follow your instructions. **If you measured rice, walk like a duck and take a puzzle piece.** Allow children to follow your instructions. **If you made bags of cracker coins, skip to me and take a puzzle piece.** When

everyone has a puzzle piece, say: **Some of you put puzzles together, some of you measured things, and some of you made a snack we'll enjoy later. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. Let's see what we can remember about Zacchaeus.**

Point to the first three Story Pictures, and ask children to tell you what they remember about each one. Say: **We've learned a lot about Zacchaeus. I'd like to see what our last Story Picture looks like, wouldn't you? If each of you puts your puzzle piece in the middle of our circle, we can put this puzzle together and find out!**

Collect the pieces, and have children work cooperatively to put the puzzle together. When the puzzle is complete, ask:

- **What's this a picture of?** (Zacchaeus giving back money; Zacchaeus being nice.)
- **How did we put this puzzle together?** (With everyone's pieces; by working together; by sharing our pieces.)
- **What if one person didn't give up his or her piece?** (The puzzle wouldn't be finished; it would look funny; it wouldn't be right.)

Say: **You all did the right thing by sharing your puzzle pieces! Now we have a picture of Zacchaeus! In this picture, Zacchaeus is doing the right thing and giving back the money he took. ▶ *Jesus wants us to do what's right.* I'm proud that you all did what was right so we could put our puzzle together. Do you remember our Bible verse? Second Thessalonians tells us to ▶ "never get tired of doing good." Before we open our Bible and pray, let's clap because we all did the right thing!**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today. Each week one of you will get to be the Bible helper.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *tree stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *tree stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

**I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together:
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Zacchaeus*. Have children gather around you. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. We've read this story for three weeks. Let's see if you can catch any mistakes in the story I'm reading and then tell me what the story should say. Clap your hands every time you hear a mistake.** Show the children the pictures in the *Bible Big Book*, but use the text printed below.

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Page 1

Hi! My name is Zacchaeus. And even though I'm a grown-up, I'm very TALL. I have to climb up on a HORSE to reach things in my house. And when I'm in a crowd of people, I can't see anything at all! But I don't mind my size so much because I have a very important job. I get to go to people's houses and collect FOOD for taxes. I'm supposed to give all the FOOD to the government, but I usually take the extra money and keep it for myself. I may be TALL, but I sure am rich! Can you help me count my money?

Pages 2-3

When I was sitting in my booth collecting taxes this morning, I heard lots of DINOSAURS saying that Jesus is planning to visit our town today! I've heard that Jesus can do great miracles. I sure would like to see him. Look! Here he comes down the road!

teacher tips

All of the "wrong words" are capitalized within the story text as it's written for you here. Tell the story slowly and distinctly, allowing time for the children to catch your "mistakes."

Wow! Look at all the people! Everyone in town must have come to see Jesus. I wish I weren't so BIG and TALL—I'll never be able to see Jesus over all these people. Everybody's standing BEHIND me, and they won't let me through. What can I do?

Pages 4-5

Hmm. There's a sycamore tree up ahead. If I climb that tree, I'll be able to see Jesus. Oh yes! I can see everything from DOWN here. There's Jesus, and he's coming this way!

Oh my! Jesus is looking up at me! I don't know how he knew I was here, but I'm SAD he found me. He's smiling at me. What? Jesus wants to come to my SCHOOL BUS! Wow, no one's ever wanted to come to my house before. I'd better hurry home to get ready for Jesus.

Pages 6-7

Listen to all the people complaining about me. All the way home I heard people complaining. "Doesn't Jesus know Zacchaeus steals our FOOD?" "Why does Jesus want to visit him?" I wonder if Jesus will change his mind about coming to my house. No, he's still following me. I'm so glad. I'll fix Jesus a nice BATH.

I can tell that Jesus loves me very much. I'm so sorry for taking other people's SHOES. I know what I'll do! I'll give back even more money than I stole in the first place. Now that I have Jesus' love in my heart, I want to do what's right. Jesus wants you to do what's right, too. Can you do that?

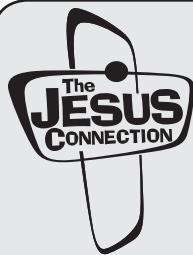
Page 8

Tomorrow I'm going to start visiting all the people I've stolen CANDY BARS from. They may not want to talk to me. But I'll tell them I'm sorry and that from now on I'll do what's right. I'll give back all the money I took, and even more. Then they'll see that from now on I'm going to be loving and kind, just like Jesus.

Close the book, and say: **Thank you for helping me tell the Bible story the right way!**

Ask: • **What bad things did Zacchaeus do?** (He took money; he stole; he was mean.)

• **What good things did Zacchaeus do?** (He was friends with Jesus; he gave the money back; he gave to poor people.)



Say: Learning more about Jesus is one way to show him that you love him and that you want to do what's right. I'm proud of you for remembering so much about our Bible stories! It's good to learn as much as we can about Jesus.

Let each child volunteer one thing that he or she learned about Jesus during the past month or so.

Then pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for letting us learn so much about you. Knowing you helps us to do what is right and good, and we want to be more like you. Amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► ***Jesus wants us to do what's right, just like Zacchaeus did. Now let's all practice doing what's right!***

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none

Say: **We're going to play a game to help remember what's right and what's wrong. I'll say some good things to do and some bad things. When I say a good thing, jump up and say "right." Let's try that right now. Right!** Pause. **When I say a bad thing, shake your head and say "wrong." Let's try that, too. Wrong!** Pause.

Read the following list, allowing time for children to respond.

- I'll sing a song to show Jesus I love him.
- I'm going to hit my friend because he was mean to me.
- My friend looks sad, so I'm going to cheer her up.
- I wish I had a truck like Tommy's, so I'm going to take his truck away.
- I'm going to help my sister pick up her toys.
- I'm going to yell at everyone because I'm so tired.
- My mom looks tired, so I'm going to give her a hug.



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► ***Jesus wants us to do what's right. You did a great job of telling what was right and what was wrong. Now you can do what's right and hide your eyes, and I'll bring out a special friend to visit you.***

Closing

■ Give It Away

SUPPLIES: snacks from Option 3, toys, stuffed animals, grocery sack

Place the bags of cracker coins and several toys and stuffed animals in a paper grocery sack. Set the sack near your story area.

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



See page 5.



Teacher: Open your eyes, and see who's here. Hi, Whiskers. How are you?

Whiskers: I'm super stupendous! And I even brought a surprise for everyone!

Teacher: A surprise? What is it?

Whiskers: It's in that bag over there. Open it up, and look inside!

Teacher: *(Open bag and look inside.)* Wow! Whiskers, what is all this stuff? Did you take toys from someone else again?

Whiskers: Nope! These are all my toys! Everything I have! I want to give them all away to my friends.

Teacher: Why do you want to give all your things away?

Whiskers: Well, because that's the right thing to do! Didn't Zacchaeus give all his stuff away?

Teacher: Children, who can tell Whiskers what Zacchaeus gave away?

(Allow children to tell about how Zacchaeus gave half of his money to the poor people. They can also tell Whiskers that Zacchaeus gave back four times the amount of money that he stole.)

Whiskers: Oh, I get it. Zacchaeus gave back what he took. That was the right thing to do. Hmm, maybe I could share some of my things, just like Zacchaeus did. *(Pulls out a bag of crackers.)* I could share these! They look like coins, but we can eat them!

Teacher: Good idea, Whiskers. Jesus is happy when we share. Zacchaeus showed Jesus' love by giving away the things that had kept him from loving others. *(Distribute crackers.)* Children, who can tell other things we can do to show Jesus' love? *(Children may say things such as praying, going to church, or being kind to others.)*

Whiskers: Those are great ideas! I'm gonna go tell Cousin Joey that ► Jesus wants us to do what's right. And I'll share my cheesy crackers with him, too.

Teacher: That sounds good to me, Whiskers. Don't forget to take your toys!

Whiskers: I won't! 'Bye, everyone! Thanks for helping me learn how to do what's right!





Handy Review

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Remember the finger play we learned last week? Let's say that again so you can tell the story of Zacchaeus to your family and friends.**

Lead children in the following finger play:

My name's Zacchaeus. I'm small as your thumb. (*Hold up your thumb.*)
I am a man Zacchaeus stole from. (*Hold up your pointer finger.*)
I'm the tall tree that Zacchaeus climbed. (*Hold up your middle finger.*)
My name is Jesus. I was loving and kind. (*Hold up your ring finger.*)
I'm the new Zacchaeus who learned right from wrong. (*Hold up your little finger.*)
Now everyone's glad to have me along! (*Wiggle all five fingers.*)

Ask: • **Why didn't people like Zacchaeus?** (He took their money; he didn't love Jesus; he wasn't kind.)

• **Why do you think they like Zacchaeus now?** (He learned to love Jesus; he gave their money back; he was kind to the poor.)

Say: ► **Jesus wants us to do what's right. Zacchaeus used to do wrong things. But when he found Jesus' love, Zacchaeus learned to do what was right. Let's pray and ask Jesus to help us do what's right, too.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for your kindness and for teaching us to be sorry when we do wrong things. Help us learn to do what's right, just like Zacchaeus did. In your name, amen.**

Say: **Let's sing a song that will help us remember our Bible verse about doing the right things.** Have children join hands in a circle, swinging their hands back and forth as they sing "Doing Good" with track 18 of the CD to the tune of "Do Lord" (see page 163 for lyrics). At the phrase, "So I will be like Jesus," have them raise their joined hands above their heads in victory.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Review With Whiskers**



Bring out Whiskers and the *Bible Big Book: Zacchaeus*. As you read the story to the children, have Whiskers ask questions such as “Was Zacchaeus as small as I am?” “Why did Zacchaeus do bad things?” or “Does Jesus love me as much as he loved Zacchaeus?” Invite children to respond to Whiskers’ questions.



■ **Make to Take: Hidden Pictures**

Have children draw a picture of Zacchaeus on white paper, using a white crayon. Point out how hard it is to see the drawing. Then allow children to paint over their pictures with watercolor paints. The white crayon will resist the paint and cause the drawing of Zacchaeus to appear. Remind children that Jesus found Zacchaeus and taught him to do what’s right.

■ **Treat to Eat: Lost and Found**

Set out your choice of child-friendly snack foods such as oat-ring cereal, crackers, and dried fruit (avoid nuts). Have children measure four spoonfuls of each item into plastic bags. Then have children close their eyes while you push a Hershey’s Kiss into the middle of each bag. Let children dig through the bag to find the surprise hidden in their snack. Remind children that Zacchaeus found Jesus’ love and that it helped him to do what’s right.



■ **Story Picture: Zacchaeus Does What’s Right**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons and glitter glue. After children have colored their pictures, help them place a drop of glitter glue on each coin. As children work, review the story of Zacchaeus and remind them that ► Jesus wants us to do what’s right.

Today I learned...

Jesus wants us to do what's right.

Help me learn this:

"Never get tired of doing good"
(2 Thessalonians 3:13b).

Ask me:

- How did Zacchaeus learn to do what's right?
- What things can I do that would make Jesus happy?
- Who helps us do what's right?

Family Fun

- Take a "Right-Way Walk" around your neighborhood. Each time you come to a corner or intersection, describe a situation in which a family member must choose to do right or wrong. If that member chooses to do what's right, continue your walk to the right. If he or she chooses to do what's wrong, turn to the left. As you walk, think of ways to help each other do what's right.

Lesson 13
Today your child learned that **JESUS WANTS US TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.** Children heard how Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for the wrong things he'd done and that Zacchaeus gave half his money to the poor and paid back four times what he'd stolen. They asked God to help them do what's right, too.

Zacchaeus Does What's Right (Luke 19:9-10)



