

Bible Point ▶

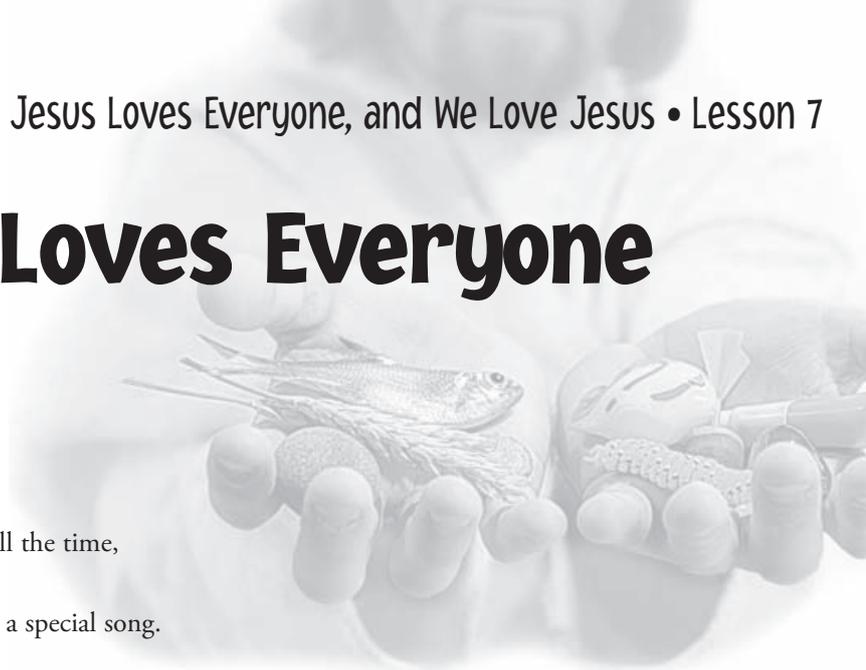
Jesus Loves Everyone

Bible Verse

Jesus loves us (adapted from John 3:16).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- discover that Jesus loves them all the time,
 - learn that we love Jesus, and
 - express their love for Jesus with a special song.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- **Jesus loves everyone, and we love Jesus.**

**Luke
19:1-10**



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 him 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 toddlers begin to respond to Jesus in love, just as Zacchaeus did!

Prayer

- Read 1 John 4:19.
- How does this verse connect with this week's story?
- How do this verse and the Bible story connect with your life?
- Pray: God, help me to respond to you with the kind of love you showed to me. Help the toddlers in my class begin to respond to you in love as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect 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.
- 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
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Rub-a-Dub-Dub —Create colorful pictures to remind them of the Bible story.	Paper, newspaper, crayons, leaves	
	Option 2: Colorful-Coin Hop —Hop, step, and jump between colorful coins in this fun motor activity.	Red, yellow, blue, and green construction paper; scissors; tape; marker	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Loves Everyone —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10.	Coin patterns (p. 100), scissors, lunch sacks, stiff yellow paper	
	I Love Jesus —Sing an action song about loving Jesus.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Zacchaeus Tree —Make tree and heart pictures to give away, and then sing a song.	Tree pattern (p. 101), white or green paper, crayons, marker, CD player	
	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Tree and Jesus patterns (pp. 100-101), crayons, scissors, tape, construction paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song about their love for Jesus.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make a pretend treetop to play in.	Green and yellow construction paper, bedsheet, tape	
	Bible Game —Play in an unusual “treetop” and pretend to be Zacchaeus.	Pretend treetop from Bible Craft	
Closing 	Friendly Snack —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Banana slices, apple slices, napkins, knife	

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

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “Jesus Loves Us” (adapted from John 3:16) (track 9) from the *CD* as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus loves everyone.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.



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.



Option 1: Rub-a-Dub-Dub

SUPPLIES: paper, newspaper, crayons, leaves



Before class, collect a variety of leaves from trees and bushes. Make sure the leaves are at least 2 inches wide.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out drawing paper, crayons, leaves, and the large coin from Sensory Packet 2. As children arrive, invite them to make colorful pictures. Lay sheets of drawing paper over the leaves or coin, and then have children rub over the paper with crayons. Encourage children to use a variety of leaves and turn the coin on both sides to make their rubbings. Point out how leaves and coins are both in the Bible story about Zacchaeus. Remind children that ► Jesus loves everyone, and he loved Zacchaeus even when Zacchaeus was selfish and mean.

Be sure children’s names are on their papers.



Option 2: Colorful-Coin Hop

SUPPLIES: red, yellow, blue, and green construction paper; scissors; tape; marker

Before class, cut large “coins” from red, green, yellow, and blue construction paper. Draw dollar and cent signs on the paper coins with a marker. Then tape the paper coins to the floor in a circle 15 inches apart.

Let children walk, hop, jump, and crawl from coin to coin, and encourage them to tell you the colors of each coin. Then lead children in repeating the Bible Point as they hop from coin to coin. Mention how Zacchaeus stole coins from the people of Jericho. Remind children that ► Jesus loves everyone and that Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was mean. Point out that Zacchaeus learned to love Jesus and decided to give back all the coins he took. Tell children that we love Jesus just as Zacchaeus loved him.



Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick

up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



SING

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

teacher tips

Singing helps young children make a smooth transition to the next activity. At first, children will just listen to the song, but they’ll quickly catch on and sing along.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 3

Say: **Who loves everyone?** ► *Jesus loves everyone.* How do we know that? **The Bible tells us. The Bible tells us that ► Jesus loves us and everyone.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



SING

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

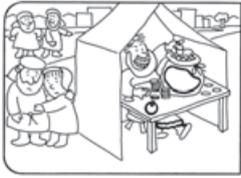
■ Bible Story: Jesus Loves Everyone

SUPPLIES: coin patterns (p. 100), scissors, lunch sacks, stiff yellow paper



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Panel 1



Before class, photocopy the coin patterns onto stiff yellow paper. Cut out the patterns. Be sure there are at least three coins for each child.

Set the lunch sacks and paper coins behind you. Place the punch-out coins and figure of Zacchaeus beside you.

Hold the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 1. Say:

We're going to hear a Bible story and learn that ► Jesus loves everyone. Hold up the figure of Zacchaeus. This is Zacchaeus. Let's tell Zacchaeus hello. Have children pass the figure, and help them each say, "Hello, Zacchaeus."

Zacchaeus wasn't a tall man—he was short. Let's play a game. If I say "tall," stand on your tiptoes like this. If I say "short," make yourself small like this. Demonstrate the motions, and encourage children to follow. Alternate saying "tall" and "short" a few times each. Then say: **Good for you! Now let's sit down and hear what happened next.** Pause.

Zacchaeus wasn't nice at all! He took money from people for taxes and then stole some of the money. Zacchaeus took the people's money and kept it in his moneybag. Who can find the coin and moneybag in the picture?

Hold the StoryBoard down so children can find and touch the coin and moneybag on Panel 1. Then say: **We can put coins in pretend moneybags, too.** Hand each child a lunch sack and three paper coins. Hold up three of the punch-out coins and say: **Let's count our coins as we put them in the moneybags. One...two...three. Good!** Empty the sacks, and count the coins aloud once more as you drop them into the pretend moneybags. Then have children sit on their sacks.

Say: **None of the people liked Zacchaeus. No sirree! Shake your head. Then one day, someone special came to town. Who do you think came to see Zacchaeus?**

Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2. Point to the picture of Jesus and say: **Jesus came to town! Let's clap to show how happy we are to see Jesus!** Pause. **Let's touch Jesus' beard and tell Jesus we love him.** Have each toddler touch Jesus' beard and say, "I love you, Jesus."

Ask: • **How does Jesus' beard feel?** (Soft; nice.)

Hold up the figure of Zacchaeus. Say: **Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see above the other people. So Zacchaeus climbed a tree to peek at Jesus!** Make the figure "climb" the tree and hide in the treetop. **We can touch the tree and peek at Zacchaeus.** Let children touch the tree and find Zacchaeus.

Jesus stood under the tree and looked up. Jesus said:

"Zacchaeus, come down right away. (*Look up and make a beckoning motion with your finger.*)

I'm going to your house today!" (*"Walk" your fingers across your palm.*)

Slowly repeat the rhyme and encourage children to say it with you.

Say: **The people were so surprised! They didn't like Zacchaeus, and they thought Jesus wouldn't like him either! But ► Jesus loves everyone! So Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.** Make the figure of Zacchaeus "climb" down from the tree. **Let's see where Jesus and Zacchaeus went.**



Panel 3



Hold up Panel 3. Say: **Jesus and Zacchaeus are at Zacchaeus' house having dinner. They're eating delicious fruit. We can smell how yummy it is.** Let children smell the fruit sticker.

Ask: • **How does fruit smell?** (Good; I want some.)

Say: **Zacchaeus was surprised that Jesus loved him.**

But we know that ► Jesus loves everyone. And we love Jesus, too. Let's blow Jesus a special kiss and say, "I love you." Lead children in blowing a kiss upward and then saying, "I love you."

Jesus told Zacchaeus about God and his love. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus loved him. Zacchaeus felt sorry for all the bad things he'd done, so he gave back the money he'd taken. Let's help Zacchaeus give back the coins. Have children jingle the moneybag. Then help them pretend to place a punch-out coin in Jesus' hand.

Hold up your paper-sack moneybag. Say: **We can give away coins, too. Reach in your moneybags, and give someone a paper coin.** Help children exchange coins a few times and then set the paper sacks aside. Assure children they'll take their moneybags home later.

Jesus loved Zacchaeus even when other people didn't love him. That's because ► Jesus loves everyone. And we love Jesus, too. Let's tell Jesus we love him with a song.

■ I Love Jesus

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "I Love Jesus" (track 8) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Do the motions in parentheses as you sing.



I love Jesus; he loves me. (*Point at yourself and then upward.*)
Jesus is my friend, you see. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)
Young and old and big and small (*stand tall, and then squat down*),
I know Jesus loves us all. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone (*stretch your arms out wide*),
And we love Jesus, too. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **I'm so glad that Jesus loves us all the time. And we love Jesus, too. Let's make something to help us remember that ► Jesus loves everyone.**



BIBLE POINT



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



BIBLE POINT



BIBLE POINT

Bible Activities

■ Zacchaeus Tree

SUPPLIES: tree pattern (p. 101), white or green paper, crayons, marker, CD player



Before class, photocopy the tree pattern onto white or green computer paper. You'll need one tree cutout for each child. Write "Jesus loves everyone" on the trunk of each tree.

Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus loves everyone! We need to make sure we tell people that Jesus loves them. We can use the story of Zacchaeus and the tree to tell people about Jesus.**

Give each child a tree handout. Encourage children to scribble-color their trees. Remove the "Symbols of Jesus" rubbing plates from the Learning Lab. Help children each place a rubbing plate under the paper then rub a crayon over the paper to make the outline of the heart. The heart should appear in the middle of the tree. Children can then each scribble-color leaves around the heart.

Ask each child to name someone in his or her family who Jesus loves. Have an adult use a marker to write the name of that person in the middle of each child's heart.

Ask: • **What does a heart remind us of?** (Love; Jesus; loving other people.)

• **Why is it important to tell other people that ► Jesus loves everyone?** (So they can know Jesus; so they can be happy; so they can go to heaven.)

Say: **In our Bible story, Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. We put hearts in the middle of our trees to remind us that ► Jesus loves everyone! Then we wrote the name of someone Jesus loves in the middle of the heart. Now we can take the trees home and give them to those people to remind them that Jesus loves them.**

Let's sing a song about how much Jesus loves us! Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Us" (adapted from John 3:16) (track 9) to the tune of "This Old Man." For extra fun, do the actions in parentheses.



SING

Jesus loves (*cross arms over chest*)
You and me. (*Point to another and then to self.*)
I'm as happy (*clap hands*)
As can be! (*Clap hands.*)

Up, down (*stand on tiptoe, and then crouch down*),
All around (*spin around*),
Jesus loves us all (*cross arms over chest*),
Young and old and big and small. (*Spread arms wide.*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **Thanks for that singing! Now let's add some pictures to our bulletin board.**

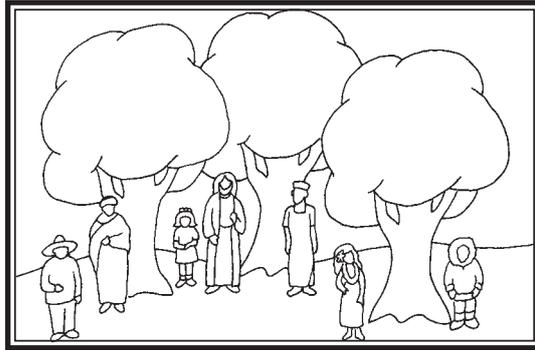


To save time, write "Jesus loves everyone" on the handout before photocopying it.



■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: tree and Jesus patterns (pp. 100-101), crayons, scissors, tape, construction paper



Before class, photocopy the tree and Jesus patterns. Color and cut out the patterns. Be sure there's a paper tree for each child. Tape a few construction paper leaves on Cuddles' head. The Jesus cutout will be removed next week, so using removable tape is recommended.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. When you've finished the script, put Cuddles away, out of sight of the children.

Cuddles: *(Shaking the leaves on his head)* Hi, everyone!

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles. My, those are pretty leaves, but what are they doing on your head?

Cuddles: I was trying to climb up a tree—but all I got were leaves in my fleece.

Teacher: You wanted to climb a tree? Why?

Cuddles: Well, I'm so short. I thought if I climbed a tree I could see lots more things!

Teacher: Lambs don't climb trees, Cuddles. But we heard a Bible story about someone who did climb a tree. His name was Zacchaeus. Children, can you tell Cuddles why Zacchaeus climbed up a tree? *(Lead children to tell Cuddles that Zacchaeus was short so he climbed a tree to see Jesus.)* Zacchaeus was a mean guy, but do you know what? Jesus loved him anyway.

Cuddles: That's because ► Jesus loves everyone!

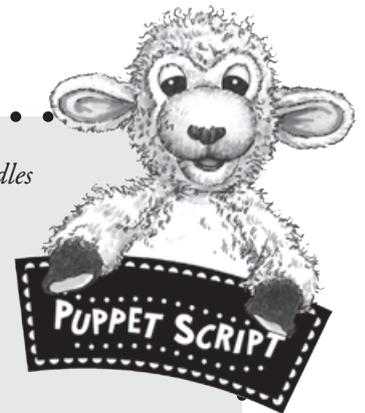
Teacher: Right! Jesus loves us all the time, and we love Jesus, too. Zacchaeus ended up loving Jesus and being sorry for all the bad things he'd done. Would you like to help us put trees on the bulletin board, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Yes. And maybe we can put my leaves on the bulletin board, too.

Have Cuddles hand each child a paper tree. Help children tape the trees around the people on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a tree, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point. Then have Cuddles tape his leaves to the edge of the bulletin board.

Teacher: Let's put a picture of Jesus beside the people on the bulletin board to show how much we all love him. *(Tape the figure of Jesus among the people on the bulletin board.)* Now we can sing a song to tell Jesus we love him.

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Toddlers & 2s granted for local church use.



Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “I Love Jesus” (track 8) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” Do the motions in parentheses as you sing.



I love Jesus; he loves me. (*Point at yourself and then upward.*)
Jesus is my friend, you see. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)
Young and old and big and small (*stand tall, and then squat down*),
I know Jesus loves us all. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

Jesus loves ev’ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev’ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev’ryone (*stretch your arms out wide*),
And we love Jesus, too. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **Zacchaeus learned that ► Jesus loves everyone. What a good Bible story! Let’s make a tree like the one Zacchaeus climbed to see Jesus. Then we’ll play a game with our pretend tree.**



Toddlers often need a great deal of help in learning to take turns. Reinforce their efforts with comments such as “When we take turns, everyone has fun” and “I like it when we take turns.”



Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: green and yellow construction paper, bedsheet, tape

Before this activity, drape a bedsheet over a low table or two chairs placed seat to seat.

Set out tape and green and yellow construction paper. Invite children to make a pile of torn paper leaves and then tape the leaves onto the sheet to make a “treetop.” Reinforce cooperation and sharing as children work on the treetop together.

As children work, talk about how Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. Make comments such as “Zacchaeus showed his love for Jesus by giving money back to the people” and “Zacchaeus loved Jesus just as we love Jesus.”

When children are satisfied that the “tree” has enough leaves, say: **Let’s play a game to remind us of the Bible story and how Zacchaeus learned that ► Jesus loves everyone.**



Bible Game

SUPPLIES: pretend treetop from Bible Craft

Set a sturdy chair beside the low table you decorated as the tree. Gather children around the chair. Say: **I’ll choose all of you to be Zacchaeus one at a time, and you can climb up and sit in the treetop. We’ll say our story rhyme:**

**Zacchaeus, come down right away.
 I’m going to your house today!**

Then you can climb out of the tree, and we’ll clap and say, ► “Jesus loves everyone.” Help each child “climb” up the chair, sit on the tabletop, and then climb down. Make sure to hold the child steady the entire time.



Be sure everyone gets a turn to be Zacchaeus. Then ask:

- **Where did Zacchaeus and Jesus go?** (Home; to dinner; to Zacchaeus' house.)

Say: **Zacchaeus and Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house, and they had dinner there. Zacchaeus learned that Jesus loved him—and Zacchaeus loved Jesus, too. Let's pretend we're going to Zacchaeus' house for dinner.** Lead children to the snack table.



Closing

■ Friendly Snack

SUPPLIES: banana slices, apple slices, napkins, knife

Ask: • **Who loves everyone?** (Jesus!)



Say: ► **Jesus loves everyone. And we love Jesus, too. We are so happy that Jesus came to earth and showed us how much he loves us. He wants to be our forever friend. He wants us to believe in him so that someday we can live in heaven with him. Let's say a prayer and tell God how much we love Jesus. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for Jesus' love. We love Jesus so much, and we love you, too. In Jesus' name, amen.**

When Zacchaeus and Jesus ate together, they probably had lots of good fruit. I have some delicious fruit for us to eat. We can pretend we're having dinner with Zacchaeus and Jesus.

Have children wash their hands. Then hand each child a napkin with a few banana slices and a thin apple slice. Encourage children to name the fruits and tell you what color each fruit is.

When children have finished eating, have them throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take their heart trees, moneybags, and coin rubbings home.



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.

■ Rhyme Time

Help children learn a new action rhyme to reinforce the point that ► *Jesus loves everyone*—just the way he or she is. Slowly say the rhyme and do the motions in parentheses. Then encourage children to follow along as you repeat the rhyme two times.

Big (*arms out at sides*),

small (*hug yourself*),

short (*squat low*),

tall (*stand on tiptoes with arms stretched in the air*),

Jesus (*point upward*)

loves us (*cover your heart*)

all! (*Point around at others.*)

■ Hide & Seek

Use the “tree” you made in the Bible Craft for a game of Hide-and-Seek. Gather the children around the tree and have them cover their eyes. Tap a child to hide under or behind the tree. Let the children guess who’s hiding in the tree. Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to hide.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



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Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

