

Bible Point ▶

Jesus Loves Everyone

Bible Verse

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

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that Jesus loves everyone,
 - understand they can love other people, and
 - express their love for others.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

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

**Luke
19:1-10**



It was not mere chance that Jesus looked away from the throng of people who surrounded him and looked directly up into the tree to see this seeker who wanted to see Jesus for himself. Zacchaeus didn't even have to say anything when Jesus spotted him; Jesus already had a plan for Zacchaeus.

Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus surprised everyone. The people were stunned that Jesus would invite himself to the home of someone like Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was stunned for the same reason! Everyone would have expected Jesus to keep himself pure from association with a sinner such as this tax collector. But Jesus wasn't concerned about expectations. He was—and is—concerned about drawing sinful people to faith in him.

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 to love and follow you with my whole heart. Let me show my devotion to you by...

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: Piggy Bank —Deposit pretend coins in a “piggy bank.”	Piggy bank face and coin patterns (p. 114), heavy paper, tape, markers, scissors, small box, chenille wire, glue, pink construction paper	
	Option 2: Spread the Love —Make modeling dough “hearts” to give to pretend people.	People patterns (pp. 86-87), pink modeling dough, scissors, tape, poster board	
	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.	Piggy bank from Option 1	
	Climb Up the Tree —Sing an action song, and learn that Jesus loves them.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Puppet Parade —Have finger puppet fun as they realize that Jesus loves everyone; then sing a song.	Small address labels, fine-tipped marker, washable marker, wet wipes, CD player	
	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Tape	
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song, and learn that Jesus loves them.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Paint pictures to give to people they love.	Tempera paint, paint shirts or grocery sacks, paper, toy cars, shallow pans, marker, newspaper	
	Bible Game —Play a coin game, and express their love to others.		
 Closing	Happy Friends —Say a prayer, and serve a snack to each other.	Sugar cookies, icing, cinnamon candies, napkins	

*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.



Option 1: Piggy Bank

SUPPLIES: piggy bank face and coin patterns (p. 114), heavy paper, tape, markers, scissors, small box, chenille wire, glue, pink construction paper

Before class, photocopy the piggy bank face and coin patterns on heavy paper. Color the patterns and cut them out. You’ll need at least 10 paper coins. Cover a small, lidless box with pink construction paper, and then glue the piggy bank face on one end of the box. Use scissors to cut a ½×4-inch slot in the top of the “piggy bank.” Twist a chenille wire into a curly “tail.”

Set the piggy bank on a table, and scatter the paper coins around the bank. As children arrive, invite them to count the coins and make “deposits” by dropping the coins into the slot on the piggy bank. As children play, mention that Zacchaeus took people’s money and wasn’t nice to them. When Zacchaeus learned that ► Jesus loves everyone, Zacchaeus wanted to love other people as Jesus loves them.



Option 2: Spread the Love

SUPPLIES: people patterns (pp. 86-87), pink modeling dough, scissors, tape, poster board

Before class, photocopy the people patterns. Cut out the patterns, and then tape them to a sheet of poster board.

Set out a container of pink modeling dough and the poster board. Have children pull off bits of modeling dough and then place dough “hearts” on each picture. Help children count the “hearts.” As children work, tell them that today they’ll hear a Bible story about how Zacchaeus showed his love for other people. Mention that ► Jesus loves everyone and we love others, too.




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.

■ 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.**

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



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.** 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!



teacher tips

Repetition is an extremely important and effective tool for teaching young children. While the StoryBoards may become a little too familiar to the teachers, weekly use allows young children to discover and rediscover the Bible truths.

■ Bible Story: Jesus Loves Everyone

SUPPLIES: piggy bank from Option 1

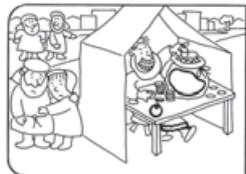


Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.

Panel 1



Place the piggy bank from Option 1 beside you. If you chose not to do Option 1, simply have children drop the coins into your hands. Set the punch-out coins and figure of Zacchaeus beside you.

Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus loves everyone.** Point to Panel 1 and say: **This is Zacchaeus. Let's say his name together. Zacchaeus. Nobody liked Zacchaeus because he stole other people's money and used it to buy things for himself. Zacchaeus took everybody's money and put it in his own moneybag! Zacchaeus didn't act nice. No, no, Zacchaeus!** Shake your finger and head and encourage children to follow along. **We can touch Zacchaeus' robe, coin, and moneybag.** Let children touch the robe, the coin, and the moneybag on Panel 1.

Zacchaeus counted lots of coins. We'll count coins, too. Set down the piggy bank from Option 1. Let children drop the punch-out coins into the piggy bank. Count the coins aloud as they are dropped. If you have more children than coins, empty the coins from the piggy bank and repeat the activity.

None of the people in the town of Jericho liked Zacchaeus. But there was someone who loved Zacchaeus. Who could it be? Let's see.



Panel 2



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

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but Zacchaeus was too short. He couldn't see over the people. So Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see better. Now Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Let's touch the tree then see if we can peek at Zacchaeus. Let children each touch the tree bark and peek in the treetop. **We can make pretend leaves with our fingers and play Peekaboo.** Show children how to cover their eyes with their fingers. **When I say, "Peekaboo, Zacchaeus," peek through your fingers.** Repeat the game a few times.

Jesus stood under the tree and looked up. He 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 then encourage children to repeat it with you.

Say: **All the people were so surprised! They didn't like Zacchaeus. They thought Jesus shouldn't like him either. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus because** ► ***Jesus loves everyone!* So Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree.** Gently remove the figure of Zacchaeus from the treetop and hold it beside Jesus on Panel 2. **Let's see where Jesus and Zacchaeus went.**



BIBLE POINT ►

Panel 3



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 3. Say: **Oh! Jesus and Zacchaeus are at Zacchaeus' house. What do you think they're eating?** Pause for responses. **They're having fruit. We can smell the yummy fruit.** Let children each scratch and sniff the fruit sticker in the bowl on Panel 3.

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

Say: **Zacchaeus and Jesus ate dinner, and Jesus told Zacchaeus all about God's love. Zacchaeus was so happy Jesus loved him, he gave back the money he'd taken from people. Let's help Zacchaeus give back the coins.** Have children jingle the moneybag. Then help each child pretend to place a punch-out coin in Jesus' hand.

Zacchaeus wanted to be kind to people and show that he loved them. ► ***Jesus loves everyone,* and we can love others, too—just as Zacchaeus did. Let's learn a fun new song to remind us that** ► ***Jesus loves everyone.***



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



BIBLE POINT ►

■ *Climb Up the Tree*

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing “Climb Up the Tree” (track 10) to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



SING

Climb up the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Climb up the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Who do you see? (*Shield your eyes and look around.*)

Who do you see? (*Shield your eyes and look around.*)

Jesus is standing below the tree. (*Look down and point.*)

Jesus loves you, and he loves me. (*Point to a friend and then to yourself.*)

Jesus loves ev'ryone we see. (*Point at everyone.*)

Climb down the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Say: **Zacchaeus climbed up the tree to see Jesus because he was too small to see over the crowd. Zacchaeus was mean to everyone, but Jesus still loved Zacchaeus. Because Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus was able to change his life and show love to other people. I'm so glad that** ► ***Jesus loves everyone!***



BIBLE POINT ►

Bible Activities

■ Puppet Parade

SUPPLIES: small address labels, fine-tipped marker, washable marker, wet wipes, CD player



Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus loves everyone! Let's think of the names of people we love.**

Using a fine-tipped marker, have an adult help each child write the name of a person he or she loves on a label. Sit in the front of the class with the washable marker and the wet wipes nearby.

Allow each child to come up to the front. Use the washable marker to draw a face on one of the child's index fingers, and have the child place his or her label on that index finger like a name tag. Help the child introduce the "friend" to the class. For example, a child might say, "This is my Uncle Mike." Have the class respond, "Jesus loves you, Uncle Mike!" Then take the label off and clean the finger with a wet wipe. Continue until each child has had a turn.



Say: ► **Jesus loves everyone! He loves you, and he loves me, and Jesus loves all of the people we just named. Jesus loves people everywhere. He wants everyone to know about his love. And he wants everyone to believe in him, so that someday they can live with him in heaven. Isn't it wonderful that ► Jesus loves everyone? Let's sing a song to help us remember that!**

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.



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: **That was fun! Right now, let's see if we can find pretend people to put on our bulletin board.**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



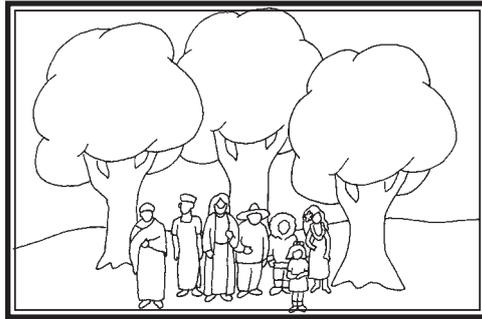
Understanding Your Toddlers and 2s' Spiritual Development

Toddlers and 2s...

- pray short, simple prayers.
- learn that God made everything.
- learn that the Bible is a book about God and Jesus.
- learn about God as a loving and kind Father.
- sing and talk about God.

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: tape



Before class, gently untape and remove the people figures from the bulletin board that were placed during Lesson 6. Place the figure of Jesus in the center of the bulletin board. Just before this activity, hide the people figures around the room in easy-to-find places.



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

Teacher: Hi, Cuddles!

Cuddles: *(Hugging children)* Hi, [child's name], and hello, [child's name]. How are you, [child's name]? Hello, [child's name]. *(Keeps greeting each child by name and with a hug.)* Hello, everyone!

Teacher: Hello, Cuddles. We've been learning that ► Jesus loves everyone. And you just taught us something very important!

Cuddles: *I did?* What did I teach you?

Teacher: You showed us that you love us, too, by saying hello to each person in our class. We heard a story today about how Zacchaeus showed other people he loved them by being kind and giving their money back.

Cuddles: It's fun to love other people! You can give them snuggles and do nice things for them. That makes everyone happy! There are lots of people on the bulletin board... *(looks at the board)* Hey! Where did all the people go?

Teacher: They're hiding in our room, Cuddles, just like Zacchaeus hid in the tree. Children, let's find the paper people. Cuddles can help us.

Help children find the hidden figures and then tape them around the figure of Jesus on the bulletin board. Help children place the figures so that they appear to be holding hands. Each time a child places a figure, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point.

Teacher: When we love others as Zacchaeus loved them, we spread Jesus' love all around—up and down! Now let's sing a song and pretend to climb up and down a tree.

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Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead the children in singing “Climb Up the Tree” (track 10) to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Climb up the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Climb up the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Who do you see? (*Shield your eyes and look around.*)

Who do you see? (*Shield your eyes and look around.*)

Jesus is standing below the tree. (*Look down and point.*)

Jesus loves you, and he loves me. (*Point to a friend and then to yourself.*)

Jesus loves ev’ryone we see. (*Point at everyone.*)

Climb down the tree. (*Make climbing motions.*)

Say: **Thanks for that singing. We can have fun by making something pretty to give other people to show that we love them. Let’s get started!**

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: tempera paint, paint shirts or grocery sacks, paper, toy cars, shallow pans, marker, newspaper

Before this activity, draw a large heart shape on paper for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out three shallow pans with a different color of tempera paint in each. Provide toy cars with moving wheels for the children to paint with. Help toddlers put on paint shirts or grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out. Say: **One good way to show others our love is to make them special gifts. We can decorate pretty pictures to give people.** Show children how to dip the cars’ wheels in the paints and then “drive” the cars over their papers to make designs. Make sure kids’ names are on their pictures.

When children have finished, let them tell who they’ll give their pictures to. Remind children that Zacchaeus showed he loved Jesus by loving other people. Point out that we love others, too. Then say: **We had fun painting pictures; now let’s have fun playing a game.**



Have enough toy cars so that each child has one of his or her own to use. This keeps a group of toddlers busy and happy!

Bible Game

SUPPLIES: none



You’ll need the large plastic coin from Sensory Packet 2.

Sit with children in a circle. Say: **Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus loved him. Zacchaeus wanted to show his love, so he gave back the coins he’d taken from people. Zacchaeus showed his love for Jesus by being kind to other people. Let’s play a game with this coin.** Hold up the plastic coin. **I’ll roll or slide the coin to someone and say, “Jesus loves you, and so do I.” Then that person can roll or slide the coin to someone else.**



Continue playing until each person has rolled the coin to someone and everyone has been affirmed. Then say: **We know that ► Jesus loves everyone. And just as Zacchaeus did, we can love others, too. Now let's make a snack that everyone loves!**



Closing

■ Happy Friends

SUPPLIES: *sugar cookies, icing, cinnamon candies, napkins*

Before class, spread white icing on prepared sugar cookies. Add cinnamon candies for eyes, noses, and smiling mouths.

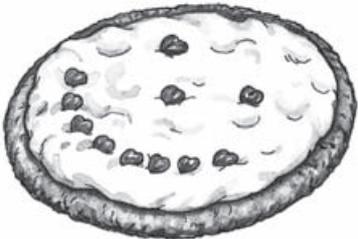
Have children wash their hands. Then gather everyone at the snack table.

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

Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus loves everyone. No matter what we look like or where we live, Jesus loves us. Isn't that wonderful? Let's say a prayer and thank God for Jesus' love. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for Jesus' love. Please help us show his love to others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **One way to show others that we love them is to do nice things for them. Let's do something nice for one another! We can give each other happy cookies.** Distribute napkins. Have a child choose a happy cookie and hand it to a friend. Then let that friend choose a happy cookie to give someone else. Continue until all the children have been served a cookie.

Have children take home the paintings they made earlier. Remind them to give their pictures to someone they love.





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.

■ Give to Others

Before this activity, fill a lunch sack with colorful cereal loops.

Have children wash their hands and then scatter around the room and find places to sit on the floor. Hand one child the sack of cereal. Remind children that Jesus loved Zacchaeus and that Zacchaeus felt sorry for the bad things he'd done and gave back the money he'd stolen. Tell children that in this game, they'll get to give pretend coins to everyone. Have the child with the cereal sack go around the room and hand a cereal loop to everyone. The last person to be served becomes the next Giver. Continue until each child has had a turn to be the Giver.



■ Sing Along

Without using the CD, sing "I Love Jesus" to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Encourage children to do the motions in parentheses. If you have older toddlers in your group, substitute the word *others* for the word *Jesus* in the last line of the song.



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.*)

Patterns

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

