



Super Duper Sticker Party

Jesus and Zacchaeus

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants to be my forever friend.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 19:1–10

KEY VERSE: “There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
Proverbs 18:24 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME
ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP
LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP
ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:15

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

The story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19 shows Jesus loving someone that society both literally and figuratively looked down on. As I read through the story of Zacchaeus, I think about what that might be like for us — to love people regardless of who they are or what they do. It actually reminds me of my parents, who have provided the best example of living out this kind of active love that I have ever seen.

For my mom and dad, there wasn't much of a choice in this matter, since their respective families weren't exactly the most stable groups. Every year, I'd meet a slightly different group of people at Christmas, due to divorce, jail, death, remarriage, and the like. It got hard to track all the step-whatevers and half-whoevers, so those terms just got dropped. We had aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. Those were all the terms we needed, and we just had to learn how to love them, no matter how little we knew about them or how differently we were choosing to live our lives.

Because of this, my parents held a pretty loose definition of family. If you needed a safe place to go, you could be part of their family. If you didn't have a family of your own, you could be a part of their family. Even if your own family was great, you could still be a part of their family. They proved it by maintaining a family tree of portraits on a big wall in their house. I've never known anyone to leave the wall. But every so often, a new person is added. There's a picture of Kamal, a man from Sri Lanka who happened to work with my dad for a few months. He didn't have anywhere to go over the holidays, so he became a part of the family. He has kids of his own now, and they're all up on the wall too, right next to my cousins. There have also been several babies — all of them made their way up there, next to their respective parents. Sometimes, those parents didn't stick around, but the pictures always do. They're still a part of the family.

I like to imagine that God does something like this too. Maybe in God's throne room, there's a huge wall of portraits. On that wall is every single human that has ever lived. He loves them all so much. The pictures all go up there at some point, and they never come down. Of course, some of those people make bad choices and turn from God, but He doesn't stop loving them. In fact, He sends you and me to cross their paths, hoping that we will give a glimpse of His love and draw them back toward home. That image makes it a little easier for me to not look down on people, like Zacchaeus, who can be hard to love.

Patrick Thompson
GO! Contributor



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Connecting with Parents during Pick-up Time

The Titanic was pretty cool, but the best ship is a partnership. (Worst opening line ever!) When children's ministry volunteers and parents work together, it makes for a powerful partnership that has twice the impact as when they work separately. Here are a few ways that you can reach out to the parents of the kids in your group and make a connection.

Require the parents to come all the way to your small group before releasing their kid.

Connecting with the parents requires you to have contact with them, and you can't do that if they beckon their kids from across the room. If this differs from your normal pick-up protocol, talk to your leaders about making a change.

Choose one or two parents to connect with during pick-up time. If you throw a dozen balls in the air and try to catch them all, you probably won't catch any. It's kind of the same with parents. (Note: Do not throw parents in the air.) If you try to connect with all of the parents, you'll most likely drop the ball. Instead, choose one or two parents every week to make a significant connection with.

Share something positive about their kid. Parents love hearing positive reports about their kids! Better yet, do it in front of the kid and watch the child's face light up.

Ask the parents if there's any way you can pray for them. This is a great way to find out what's going on in the life of their family and to support and encourage them. Show them that you're truly committed to supporting them by following up with them in the coming weeks.

11.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

WASHED AWAY (Application Activity)

Supplies: Coffee filters (1 per child), bin of water (1 per group), dark colored washable markers (1 per child), towel (1 per group)

Directions: Give each child a coffee filter and a dark colored marker. Tell the children to draw a sad face on their coffee filter.

Say: When we do bad things, it's called "sin." Sin is kind of like these sad faces. It's dark and icky, and it makes God sad. But there's good news. When Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, He washed our sins away. Let me show you what that looks like.

Directions: Have the children put their coffee filters in the bin of water and push them down until they are submerged. Have the children close their eyes, then say a short prayer thanking Jesus for dying on the cross and asking Him to wash away your sins. When finished, swish the filters around the water a little bit more, then remove them. The coffee filters will have been washed clean.

Question: What are some of the "sins" or bad things you've done? Does Jesus forgive you for doing that? (Answer: Yes! He doesn't want you to do that, but He forgives you when you do.)

NIGHTY NIGHT (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

**"There is a friend (clasp hands together)
who sticks closer (hug yourself)
than a brother (high five someone next to you)."
Proverbs 18:24 (extend hands like you're holding a book).**

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. Next, have all of the children lie down and pretend to sleep as you sing the sleeping song below. At the end of the song, fill in the blank with one of the suggested animals or objects. The children must then wake up and act like that animal or object. After a few moments of imagination play, have the children say the Bible verse as if they were that animal or object. Direct the children to go back to sleep, then repeat.

Sleeping Song:

Sleeping, sleeping, everyone is sleeping.
When they woke up, they were all _____.

Suggested Animals or Objects:

Crocodiles, mice, kangaroos, sloths, pirates, lions

COMBINED LG – 11:00



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the Large Group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

WEE LITTLE MAN (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, Jesus wanted to be friends with Zacchaeus even though He had done bad things. Let's sing a song that helps us remember what happened in the story.

Directions: Sing and do the motions to "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" (lyrics below). When finished, ask the question below and allow two or three children to answer. Next, have the children sing the song again, but in a different style such as big giant, tiny mouse, robot, or alligator. Ask the children what style they want to do. Continue to alternate between singing the song and having the children answer the question.

Song Lyrics:

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he. (*Squat down low.*)
He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see. (*Pretend to climb.*)
And when the Savior passed that way, He looked up in the tree. (*Look up high.*)
And said, "Zacchaeus, you come down!" (*This line is spoken.*)
For I'm going to your house today! For I'm going to your house today! (*March in place.*)

Question: If Jesus came to your house, what would you do with Him?

STICKER TIME (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible story drawing with stickers attached (1 per child), markers or crayons

Directions: During the Large Group storytelling time, children will place four story stickers on their Bible drawing to complete the picture. Have the children color each of the stickers one at a time in the order indicated below. As the children color the sticker, ask them what happened in that part of the story. As the coloring continues, the story will unfold.

Sticker Order: Zacchaeus, sycamore tree, Jesus, angry person

11.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Say: When we sin, it makes God sad. But if we ask Jesus to forgive us, He washes our sins away so that we can be friends with Him forever. Let's say a prayer and tell Jesus we're sorry for doing these things.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, ask Jesus to forgive the children for the sins they talked about and thank Him for loving us no matter what.

Directions: Give each child their Bible story coloring sheet from the storytelling time (with stickers attached) as well as some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: What was your favorite part of this story? Why did you like that part?

Question: Why do you think Jesus would want to be Zacchaeus' friend if Zacchaeus had done bad things?