

2s | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—May 2026, Week 3

Today's Bible Story: Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Jesus cares about you no matter what.

Key Question: Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line: Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse: *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* • Ephesians 3:18 NIV

Note: This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional EveryChild tips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Grow, Grow, Grow

Find Zacchaeus

I Spy

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Climb the Verse

Zacchaeus Sing Along

On the Way to Zacchaeus' House

Z's Story Tree

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue App

*Allergy Alert



Bible Story

Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Jesus cares about you no matter what.

Key Question

Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line

Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. • Ephesians 3:18 NIV



15 min

Social

5 min

Grow, Grow, Grow | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Optional: Watering can 1
-  Optional: Large picture of a sun 1



- Offer visual cards of each step (seed, water, sun, tree).
- Allow children to grow using hands and arms if full movement is not preferred.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather children in a circle in an open area of your room.

During the Activity: Encourage children to crouch down like a tiny seed in the ground. Leader will pretend to water the seeds, then lift the sun prop and shine it over the children. Encourage them to slowly grow up tall like a tree. Repeat several times and cheer as they grow.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello beautiful friends! Come over here and sit in a circle on the floor with me."

During the Activity: "Let's be little seeds hiding in the dirt. Crouch down small like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Great job! Little seeds need water to grow. Here comes the water. (*Walk around to each child and pretend to pour the water on them.*) Water, water, water! And little seeds need sunshine to grow too. Here comes the sunshine. (*Put arms up over your head in a circle and walk to each child.*) Shine, shine, shine. Now grow, grow, grow to be a tall, tall, tall tree! (*Pause.*) Great job!"

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we are going to learn about a man named Zacchaeus. He climbed a tree to see Jesus because he wanted to know more about Him. Let's go hear more about Zacchaeus and how Jesus cared about him."

5 min

Find Zacchaeus| Made to Play

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

👤	"Find Zacchaeus" Activity Page	1
👤	Cardstock	1
👤	Brown butcher paper	1
👤	Green sticky notes pad	1
👤	Painter's tape	1
👤	Scissors	1
👤	Permanent marker	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Find Zacchaeus" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per Small Group. Cover the table with butcher paper and secure with tape. Draw a tree trunk on the paper and tape Zacchaeus on the paper above the tree trunk. Cover the picture with green sticky notes. Add more sticky notes around them to create a tree canopy.

During the Activity: Encourage children to take turns removing one sticky note at a time until Zacchaeus is fully uncovered. Celebrate when Zacchaeus is found.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Wow! Look at this tree! There is something hiding behind the leaves. Let's take turns removing one leaf at a time."









During the Activity: "[Child's name] take one leaf off the tree. (Pause.) Child's name] take a leaf off the tree. (Continue with each child until Zacchaeus is fully uncovered.) Who's hiding in the tree? This is a man named Zacchaeus. We'll hear more about him today in our Bible Story."

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story today, we are going to hear all about Zacchaeus and how Jesus cared about him."

5 min

I Spy | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Shallow plastic bin 1
-  Paper shreds bags 2
-  Artificial leaf 1
-  Little People® figure 1
-  Large, play coin 1
-  Foam heart, 1
-  Small toy house 1
-  Optional EveryChild Supplies- Several
Gloves, scoopers, or tongs



- Offer gloves, scoopers, or tongs for digging if preferred.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place all the items in the bin and cover with paper shreds.

During the Activity: Invite children to take turns digging to find an item. Ask prompting questions: Can you find the leaf? the heart? the coin?

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come to the table with me. Let's play a game of I Spy! There are special things hiding in this bin."

During the Activity: "[Child's name], reach in the bin. (Pause.) Can you find a coin? (Pause.) You found it! [Child's name], reach in the bin. (Pause.) Can you find a heart? (Pause.) You found it! [Child's name], reach in the bin. (Pause.) Can you find a house? (Pause.) Hooray! You found it! (Continue with the other items. Reset and repeat so each child can find an item.)"

After the Activity: "That was fun looking for all the hidden things. Today in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man named Zacchaeus and how Jesus showed Zacchaeus love even when others didn't. Let's go hear all about him."

20 min

Groups

5 min

Climb the Verse | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

No supplies needed



- Allow children to climb with hand motions from a seated position.

Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Spread out in an open area. Say the Memory Verse as you do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to pretend to climb a tree as you say the verse together.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me and spread out. Let's do the motions as we say our Memory Verse. Ready? Here we go! 'How wide (*stretch arms out wide*) and long (*stretch arms forward*) and high (*reach arms up*) and deep (*crouch down low*) is the love of Christ. (*Hug yourself.*) Ephesians 3:18. (*Open hands like a book*) Great job!"


During the Activity: "We're going to climb, just like Zacchaeus climbed the tree in our Bible Story! And while we climb, we'll say our memory verse. Ready? Climb, climb, climb! 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' Ephesians 3:18. Let's say it again and climb some more. Climb, climb, climb! 'How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.' Ephesians 3:18. (*Repeat as time and interest allow.*) Great job climbing and saying our verse!"

After the Activity: "In our Bible Story, Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So, he climbed a tree! When Jesus walked by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and said, 'Come down! I want to go to your house!' Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name and everything about him. Even though Zacchaeus had taken too much money from people, Jesus still loved him and wanted to be his friend. Jesus helped Zacchaeus make things right. Jesus cared about Zacchaeus, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone. Who does Jesus care about? [Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.**"

5 min

Zacchaeus Sing Along | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

 "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" 1
(available on APlay with Amazing Music)



- Offer seated participation with visual prompts or hand movements.
- Use finger puppets or picture cards to accompany the song for nonverbal learners.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Stand together, spread out with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to sing and dance to the song, "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man."

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We're going to sing a song about Zacchaeus to help us remember today's true Bible Story."

During the Activity: "Here's our song, let's sing: (Start song.)"

"Zacchaeus was a wee little man,
and a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree,
For the Lord he wanted to see.

"And as the Savior came that way,
He looked up in the tree.
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down,"

"For I'm going to your house today.
For I'm going to your house today.

"Great job singing and moving!"

After the Activity: "That song tells the same story we heard today! Zacchaeus was a man who made some wrong choices. He took too much money from people. A lot of people didn't like him. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus anyway. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly, he climbed up in a tree! Jesus saw him and said, 'Come down! I'm going to your house!' Jesus cared about Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was so happy that he gave back the money he took and even more. Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart. Jesus cared about Zacchaeus because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone. Who does Jesus care about? [Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.**"

5 min

On the Way to Zacchaeus' House | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

👤	"On the Way to Zacchaeus' House" Activity Page	1
👤	Cardstock	1
👤	Painter's tape	1
👤	Optional: Toy Jesus	1

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "On the Way to Zacchaeus' House" on cardstock, one per Small Group. Tape the picture of the house to a wall at child's height. Create a tape path on the floor leading to the picture of the house.

During the Activity: Invite children to take turns walking along the path to Zacchaeus' house. Sit together at the end of the path and review the Bible Story. *Optional: Take Jesus to "walk" with them if desired.*

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come and walk with me! We're going to follow the path to Zacchaeus' house!"

During the Activity: "Follow me and let's walk carefully down this path. Step, step, step... we're on the way to Zacchaeus' house! Step, step, step. (Pause.) Hooray! We made it! Great job walking! Let's sit down right here at the end of the path outside Zacchaeus' house. (Pause.) In today's true story from the Bible, we learned about Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector and took more money than he should and that made people not like him. One day Jesus was coming to town and Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. There was a crowd and Zacchaeus couldn't see over them, so he climbed up a tree to see Jesus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and said 'Come down! I want to go to your house today!' Even though Zacchaeus had made some wrong choices and people didn't like him, Jesus cared about him because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!** Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend, his heart changed that day. Zacchaeus gave back the money he took and more."







After the Activity: "Jesus cared about Zacchaeus and wanted to be his friend. Jesus cared about Zacchaeus even though he had done some bad things because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone. Who does Jesus care about? [Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

5 min

Z's Story Tree | Made to Create

*Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

	"Z's Story Tree" Activity Page	1
	Cardstock	2
	Crayons or washable markers	Several
	Green tissue paper squares	10
	Glue sticks	1
	Permanent marker	1



- Use green circle stickers for leaves for easier handling.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Z's Story Tree" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their pictures, then glue tissue paper squares to the tree.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Look at your paper! Who's that up in that tree in the branches? *(Pause for responses.)* It's Zacchaeus! And who's standing next to the tree? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It's Jesus!"

During the Activity: "Color your paper. *(Pause.)* Great job! These green tissue paper squares remind me of leaves. Glue some to your paper to hide Zacchaeus in the tree. *(Pause.)* You're doing such a great job adding leaves to the tree. In our Bible Story, Zacchaeus climbed a fig tree so he could see Jesus because he was too short to see over the crowd."

After the Activity: "Jesus walked by the tree and saw Zacchaeus. Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and said, 'Come down, I want to go to your house today.' Zacchaeus was so surprised and so happy! Jesus knew Zacchaeus had made wrong choices, but Jesus still wanted to be his friend. That's because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone**, no matter what! Can you say that with me? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

Getting Ready | 2's Small Group

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

Social

1. Grow, Grow, Grow

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Optional: Watering can
- Optional: Large picture of a sun

2. Find Zacchaeus

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Find Zacchaeus" Activity Page, one per Small Group
- Cardstock, one per Small Group
- Brown butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Green sticky notes, one pad per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Find Zacchaeus" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per Small Group.
- Cover the table with butcher paper and secure with tape.
- Draw a tree trunk on the paper and tape Zacchaeus on the paper above the tree trunk.
- Cover the picture with green sticky notes.
- Add more sticky notes around them to create a tree canopy.

3. I Spy

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Shallow plastic bin, one per Small Group
- Paper shreds, two or more bags per Small Group
- Artificial leaf, one per Small Group
- Little People® figure, one per Small Group
- Large, play coin, one per Small Group
- Foam heart, one per Small Group
- Small toy house, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Place all the items in the bin and cover with paper shreds.

Groups

1. Climb the Verse

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

2. Zacchaeus Sing Along

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need⁹

- "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" (available on APlay with Amazing Music)

3. On the Way to Zacchaeus' House

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- "On the Way to Zacchaeus' House" Activity Page, one per Small Group.
- Cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group.
- *Optional: Toy Jesus*

What You Do:

- Print "On the Way to Zacchaeus' House" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
- Tape the picture of the house to a wall at child's height.
- Create a tape path on the floor leading to the picture of the house.

4. Z's Story Tree

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create

What You Need:

- "Z's Story Tree" Activity Page, one per child
- Cardstock, one piece per child
- Crayons or washable markers, several per child
- Green tissue paper squares, ten or more per child
- Glue sticks, one per child
- Permanent marker, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Z's Story Tree" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Print the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Print "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App** and **ParentCue.org**.

First Look Pinterest Page

Preschool

First Look

May - Week 3

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
bit.ly/FL_HatsOff

Supplies

Grow, Grow, Grow | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Optional: Watering can | 1 |
| 2. Optional: Large picture of a sun | 1 |

Find Zacchaeus | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Find Zacchaeus" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. Brown butcher paper | 1 |
| 4. Green sticky notes pad | 1 |
| 5. Painter's tape | 1 |
| 6. Scissors | 1 |
| 7. Permanent marker | 1 |

I Spy | Made to Explore *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Shallow plastic bin | 1 |
| 2. Paper shreds bags | 2 |
| 3. Artificial leaf | 1 |
| 4. Little People® figure | 1 |
| 5. Large, play coin | 1 |
| 6. Foam heart, | 1 |
| 7. Small toy house | 1 |
| 8. Optional EveryChild Supplies Gloves, scoopers, or tongs | Several |

Zacchaeus Sing Along | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" (available on APlay with Amazing Music) | 1 |

On the Way to Zacchaeus' House | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. "On the Way to Zacchaeus' House" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. Painter's tape | 1 |
| 4. Optional: Toy Jesus | 1 |

Z's Story Tree | Made to Create *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Z's Story Tree" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 2 |
| 3. Crayons or washable markers | Several |
| 4. Green tissue paper squares | 10 |
| 5. Glue sticks | 1 |
| 6. Permanent marker | 1 |