

3-5's | 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

Build It

Hide the Helper

Jenga Builders

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

Measure the Verse

Story Box

Match the Shapes

High in the Tree Zacchaeus

Me in the Tree*

Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (print or email)

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

Build It | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need

-  Cardboard blocks 1
-  Optional: Cardboard boxes in a variety of shapes and sizes. Several



- Build with blocks on a table if children are not able to get down on the floor.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set the blocks in an open area of your space. Invite children to explore and begin building.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to build a tower as tall as they can. Ask, "How high can your tower go? Can you build it taller than Zacchaeus?" Let them take turns stacking blocks.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here with me and let's build with these blocks!"


















During the Activity: "Let's build something tall, like a tree or a tower. Let's stack the blocks on top of each other as high as we can. *(Pause.)* Our tower is getting so tall! Let's see if we can make it even taller, one block at a time. *(Pause.)* Our tower is [number] blocks tall! Let's see if we can add more blocks to make it even taller. Wow! So tall, let's knock it down and build it again! *(Pause.)* Whoa! That was super cool. Ready to build?" *(Continue as time and interest allow.)*

After the Activity: "Today, in our true story from the Bible, we'll hear about a man named Zacchaeus who climbed a tall tree just so he could see Someone really special! Let's go hear more about Zacchaeus and who climbed the tree to see."

5 min

Me in the Tree* | Made to Create

What You Need

	"Allergy Alert Poster"	1
	"Me in the Tree" Activity Page	1
	White cardstock	1
	Green cardstock	1
	Brown paper cups	1
	Potting soil bag	1
	Sunflower seeds	1
	Plastic bowl	1
	Shallow plastic bin	1
	Garden spades or plastic serving spoons	Several
	Camera	1
	Photo paper	1
	Green craft stick	1
	Glue sticks	Several
	Scissors,	1
	Plastic tablecloth	1
	Baby wipes	Several



- Provide gloves for children with sensory sensitivities.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock list potting soil and sunflower seeds and post at the door, one per Small Group. Print "Me in the Tree" on green cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Spread the tablecloth on the table or floor. Pour soil into the bin and place it in the middle of the tablecloth with the spades/spoons. Pour the sunflower seeds into the bowl. Take a picture of each child and print, cut as needed. *Option: Fill each child's cup with soil and set it on the tablecloth.*

During the Activity: Ask children to glue their picture and leaf to the top of their craft stick. Encourage children to scoop soil into their cups, make a hole in the middle of the soil then stick a seed inside. Help cover the seed with more soil, then ask children to stick their craft stick into their cup. Clean hands as needed.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come join me around the table. We are going to plant a seed that will grow tall like the tree Zacchaeus climbed up in our story today."






During the Activity: "First, take your picture and the leaf, and glue them to the top of your craft stick. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now scoop some soil into your cup. *(Pause.)* Poke a hole in the middle of the soil and put a seed. *(Pause.)* Fill in the hole. *(Pause.)* Great! Now stick the craft stick with your picture into your cup. You did a really good job. Let's clean our hands and talk about today's true story from the Bible."

After the Activity: "Zacchaeus had climbed a tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus saw him, He called him down from the tree, and they went to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had made bad choices. Zacchaeus was changed that day and gave back the money he took and more! Jesus came to help people who are sick and hurting and do wrong things, like Zacchaeus, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!** Who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone!**"

5 min

Journal and Prayer | Made to Reflect

What You Need

-  "Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder 1
-  Cardstock 1
-  Bible 1
-  Journal 1
-  Fun-shaped pen 1

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

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, print "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage the children to pretend to climb a tree like Zacchaeus as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and the Memory Verse Hand Motions, then ask the children to help you make a list in the journal of things that we know are wrong to do.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today, we are going to pretend to climb a tree like Zacchaeus did in our story. Ready? Climb, climb, climb! Great job everyone! We're almost there! Hooray! We made it! Now we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity: (Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story today, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short and could not see over all of the people. What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? *(Pause.)* Yes, he climbed a tree! And then Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down because He wanted to go to his house! Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had done wrong things because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.** Tell me, who does Jesus care about? **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.**

"The Bible verse we are learning talks about how big Jesus' love is for us. It says, '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*). Did you hear that? Jesus loves us wide, (*stretch arms out wide*) and long (*stretch arms forward*) and high (*reach arms up*) and deep! (*Crouch down low.*) Jesus loves everyone, everywhere that much because **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone.** Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do! '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*).

"Yay! (Clap.) I'm so glad that Jesus loves and cares about everyone everywhere! Let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.) It's a good thing Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong, because everyone has done something wrong. We all need Jesus to forgive us, right? Let's make a list of things we know are wrong. Then we can use our list when we pray. (Suggestions: Not obeying parents, not sharing, arguing with a sibling/friend, taking something that does not belong to us, etc.) I'll go first. (Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)"

After the Activity: "We've all done something wrong, just like Zacchaeus. That's what makes Jesus so special. **[Bottom Line] Jesus cares about everyone**, and He will always forgive us. Let's pray and talk to God about what we wrote in our prayer journal. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us no matter what. Please forgive us when we do things like (read the list). And help us forgive others too. You're the best, God. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready | 3-5's Small Group

GETTING READY

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

Social

1. Build It

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Cardboard blocks, one set per Small Group
- *Optional: Cardboard boxes in a variety of shapes and sizes.*

What You Do:

- Set the blocks in an open area of your space.

2. Hide the Helper

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Hide the Helper" Activity Page, one set per Small Group
- Cardstock, one piece per Small Group
- Community Helper hat, one per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Hide the Helper" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Fold each helper cutout along the fold line to help them stand.
- Stand each helper up in the middle of the table and place the hat nearby.

3. Builders

Made to Imagine

What You Need:

- Lincoln Logs™, Jenga®, or similar stacking blocks, one set per Small Group

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

1. Measure the Verse

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Explore

What You Need:

- Soft flexible tape measure, one per Small Group

Optional EveryChild Supplies:

2. Story Box

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Play

What You Need:

- "Story Box" Activity Page, one set per Small Group

- Cardstock, one set per Small Group
- Cube tissue box, one set per Small Group
- Heart-shaped sticky notes, six per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- Clear tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Story Box" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Tape one picture to each side of the box.
- Cover each picture with a sticky note

3. Match the Shapes**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Think***What You Need:**

- Butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Foam shapes, ten or more per child
- Washable markers, several per Small Group
- Masking tape, one roll per Small Group

What You Do:

- Cover the table with butcher paper and secure with tape.
- Draw the outline of a tree with a large canopy.
- Inside the tree canopy, lay out several foam shapes and trace around the edges of each one.
- Spread the foam shapes around the table.

4. High in the Tree Zacchaeus**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Move***What You Need:**

- "High in the Tree Zacchaeus" Activity Page, one cutout per child
- Cardstock, one per child
- Butcher paper, one per Small Group
- Washable marker, one per Small Group
- Painter's tape, one roll per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- *Optional: The tree from "Match the Shapes" Activity*

What You Do:

- Print "High in the Tree Zacchaeus" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
- Draw a large outline of a tree and tape to a wall at child's height.
- Make a tape roll and place on the back of each cutout.

5. Jesus and Zacchaeus**Live for God | Application Activity***Made to Create***What You Need:**

- "Allergy Alert Poster", one per Small Group
- "Me in the Tree" Activity Page, one cutout per child
- White cardstock, one per Small Group
- Green cardstock, one per child

- Brown paper cups, one per child
- Potting soil, one bag per Small Group
- Sunflower seeds, one per child
- Plastic bowl, one per Small Group
- Shallow plastic bin, one per Small Group
- Garden spades or plastic serving spoons
- Camera, one per Small Group
- Photo paper, one per child
- Green craft stick, one per child
- Glue sticks, several per Small Group
- Scissors, one per Small Group
- Plastic tablecloth, one per Small Group
- Baby wipes, one package per Small Group

What You Do:

- Print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock list potting soil and sunflower seeds and post at the door, one per Small Group.
- Print "Me in the Tree" on green cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
- Spread the tablecloth on the table or floor.
- Pour soil into the bin and place in the middle of the tablecloth with the spades/spoons.
- Pour the sunflower seeds into the bowl.
- Take a picture of each child and print, cut as needed.
- *Option: Fill each child's cup with soil and set on the tablecloth.*

6. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, one per Small Group
- Bible, one per Small Group
- Journal, one per Small Group
- Fun-shaped pen, one per Small Group

What You Do:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, Print "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut one per Small Group.
- Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 3:18. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

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**.

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

Build It | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. Cardboard blocks | 1 |
| 2. Optional: Cardboard boxes in a variety of shapes and sizes. | Several |

Hide the Helper | Made to Play *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Hide the Helper" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. Community Helper hat | 1 |
| 4. Scissors | 1 |

Builders | Made to Imagine *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---|----------|
| 1. Lincoln Logs™, Jenga®, or similar stacking blocks sets | 1 |

Measure the Verse | Made to Explore

- | | Quantity |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Soft flexible tape measure | 1 |

Story Box | Made to Play

- | | Quantity |
|------------------------------|----------|
| 1. "Story Box" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. Cube tissue box | 1 |
| 4. Heart-shaped sticky notes | 6 |
| 5. Scissors | 1 |
| 6. Clear tape | 1 |

Match the Shapes | Made to Think *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|---------------------|----------|
| 1. Butcher paper | 1 |
| 2. Foam shapes | 10 |
| 3. Washable markers | Several |
| 4. Masking tape | 1 |

High in the Tree Zacchaeus | Made to Move *Uses Minimal Supplies

- | | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| 1. "High in the Tree Zacchaeus" Activity Page | 1 |
| 2. Cardstock | 1 |
| 3. Butcher paper | 1 |
| 4. Washable marker | 1 |
| 5. Painter's tape | 1 |
| 6. Scissors | 1 |
| 7. Optional: The tree from "Match the Shapes" Activity | Several |

Me in the Tree* Made to Create		Quantity
1.	"Allergy Alert Poster"	1
2.	"Me in the Tree" Activity Page	1
3.	White cardstock	1
4.	Green cardstock	1
5.	Brown paper cups	1
6.	Potting soil bag	1
7.	Sunflower seeds	1
8.	Plastic bowl	1
9.	Shallow plastic bin	1
10.	Garden spades or plastic serving spoons	Several
11.	Camera	1
12.	Photo paper	1
13.	Green craft stick	1
14.	Glue sticks	Several
15.	Scissors,	1
16.	Plastic tablecloth	1
17.	Baby wipes	Several

Journal and Prayer Made to Reflect		Quantity
1.	"Memory Verse Card" from the Home folder	1
2.	Cardstock	1
3.	Bible	1
4.	Journal	1
5.	Fun-shaped pen	1