

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Babies and Toddlers

Bible Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Key Passage: John 14:6

Main Point: Jesus is the Messiah.

The Bible Story (Watch this week's [IDC Kids Preschool Video](#))

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and His friends traveled through Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. He was rich because he took money from people. People did not like Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but so many people were around Jesus that Zacchaeus could not see over them! He climbed into a sycamore tree to see Jesus. When Jesus got to the tree, He stopped. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I am going to stay at your house." People were mad that Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house, but Jesus loved Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus said, "Lord, I will give half of my things to the poor. I will pay back people more than what I stole." Jesus said, "I have come to rescue people who do not know God."

Gospel Gems

People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did.

Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.

Jesus came to rescue us.

Babies Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 19:1-10. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

Say: People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. Jesus came to rescue us. **Jesus is the Messiah.**

[Pray for your baby.]

Sing a Song

Sing to the tune of "London Bridge":

"Jesus taught us about God, about God, about God!

Jesus taught us about God! Jesus came to save us."

Say: Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. **Jesus is the Messiah.**

Look at Bibles

Wrap a storybook Bible's cover in paper and decorate it with heart stickers. Invite babies to handle and open the Bible. Place a heart cutout or key passage card at John 14:6 and read it to the babies.

Say: People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. The Bible says that Jesus loves us. Jesus came to rescue us. **Jesus is the Messiah.**

Touch and see trees

If weather permits, place babies in a stroller and take them outside to look at trees. Find a tree that has low-lying branches for babies to touch. Briefly tell the Bible story.

Say: People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house. **Jesus is the Messiah!**

Toddler Activities

Sing a song

Sing "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man" and perform the hand motions. If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or the hand motions, check them out online.

Say: People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. Jesus came to show people God's love. Jesus came to rescue us. **Jesus is the Messiah.**

Serve a meal

Provide toy dishes and toy food for toddlers to play out a meal. Mention that Jesus ate at Zacchaeus's house.

Say: Zacchaeus made wrong choices. People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. **Jesus is the Messiah.** Jesus came to rescue us and show us God's love.

Climb and slide

If you have a toddler slide, use construction paper to make it look like a tree. Invite toddlers to climb the tree (ladder). When you say, "[*Toddler's name*], come down," allow her to slide down.

Say: Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus came to rescue us, just like He came to rescue Zacchaeus. **Jesus is the Messiah.**

Give to a friend

Invite toddlers to find a favorite toy to give to a friend to play with. Remind the toddlers that Zacchaeus loved Jesus and offered to give money to people who did not have any.

Say: Jesus came to rescue us. **Jesus is the Messiah,** God's Son.

Weigh coins

Provide a small kitchen scale, ziploc bags, and real or fake coins for toddlers to weigh. Help toddlers put different numbers of coins in the bags and then weigh the bags on the scale.

Say: Zacchaeus took money from people. People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did. **Jesus is the Messiah.**