

## Jesus and Zacchaeus

### IDC Kids Preschool

**Bible Passage:** Luke 19:1-10

**Key Passage:** John 14:6

**Main Point:** Jesus is the Messiah.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus came to look for and rescue people who sin. He came to rescue people like you and me. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He is happy when we are sorry for our sin, and He wants us to trust in Him.

### Watch this week's [\*\*IDC Kids Online Video\*\*](#)

For added reinforcement, retell the story below. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

### Talk about the Bible story

Say • What a great story! When our story began, Zacchaeus was a dishonest tax collector. People did not like him. But after he met Jesus, Zacchaeus changed. **Jesus loved Zacchaeus.** Jesus' love for him made Zacchaeus want to do the right thing.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

What was Zacchaeus' job? (*tax collector*)

Why did the people not like tax collectors? (*Many of them were dishonest.*)

What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus? (*He climbed into a sycamore tree.*)

Where did Jesus tell Zacchaeus He wanted to go with him? (*Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house with him.*)

What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus he would do? (*give half of what he had to the poor, pay back money he took*)

### Learn the big picture question

Say • **Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.** God sent His Son to look for and rescue people who sin—people like you and me. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He is happy when we are sorry for our sin, and Jesus wants us to trust in Him.

### Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to John 14:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "John 14:6" found after the Bible Story.

Say • Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life in our key passage. Jesus is the only way sinful people like Zacchaeus and you and me can be rescued from sin.

### Activities

Sort coins

Place piles of assorted coins near a muffin tin. Demonstrate how to examine coins and identify differences. Guide preschoolers to sort different types of coins into muffin tin cups.

Say • Today's Bible story is about a man named Zacchaeus and what happened when he met Jesus. Zacchaeus's job was to collect money from the people called taxes. He was a tax collector. He did not have many friends. Tax collectors like Zacchaeus sometimes took more money than they had to and kept some extra money for themselves.

### **Take a nature walk**

Take a walk outdoors and observe the trees. Use a mobile device to show preschoolers what a sycamore tree looks like, and challenge them to find one. Discuss what it would be like to climb a tree to see Jesus.

Say • Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was short. He ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore tree so he could see over the crowd. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and called him down. Jesus said He wanted to stay with Zacchaeus. **Jesus loved Zacchaeus.** Jesus had come to earth to find people like Zacchaeus—people who did not know God—and to rescue them from their sin.

### **Collage story items**

Give each child a sheet of paper. Arrange materials nearby. Encourage a child to glue or tape leaves, twigs, and coins onto the paper. Mention how each item relates to the Bible story as a child works with it. Encourage creativity. Value the process over the final product.

Say • **Jesus loved Zacchaeus.** Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was sorry for his sin and wanted to do the right thing. Jesus is happy when we are sorry for our sin, and He wants us to trust in Him.

### **Build a tree snack**

Instruct preschoolers to wash their hands. Demonstrate how to attach a marshmallow to the end of a pretzel stick and continue adding marshmallows and pretzel sticks. Pour a few pretzel sticks and miniature marshmallows onto a plate for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to use the edible building materials to assemble a tree. Allow preschoolers to eat their tree snacks if they desire. Talk about different aspects of the Bible story as children work.

Say • The only way Zacchaeus could see Jesus when He walked into town was to run ahead of the crowd and climb a sycamore tree. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, He wanted to talk to him. **Jesus loved Zacchaeus.** Jesus came to look for and rescue people who sin. We are sinners like Zacchaeus, and Jesus came to rescue us too. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He is happy when we are sorry for our sin, and He wants us to trust in Him.

### **Weigh coins**

Set out an assortment of coins and a kitchen scale. Encourage children to place different amounts of coins on the scale and notice the weights. Challenge preschoolers to predict if the weight will go up or down by adding more coins. Remind preschoolers that Zacchaeus said he would give half of everything he had to the poor. Count a batch of coins. Then weigh the coin batch. Remove coins from the batch until half of the weight is left. Invite preschoolers to count how many coins were half of the batch.

Say • Zacchaeus had become a very rich man by taking from others, but after Zacchaeus spent time with Jesus, he told Jesus that he wanted to do the right thing. "I will give half of everything I have to the poor," Zacchaeus said. "And if I took anything from someone that I should not have taken, I will pay him back even more than I took." **Jesus loved Zacchaeus.** Jesus died on the cross and rose again to rescue people like Zacchaeus and us from sin. He is happy when people are sorry for our sin and trust in Him.

## Activity page

Download and print [this week's activity page](#)

Invite preschoolers to use the key to find Zacchaeus in the picture.

Say • Did you find Zacchaeus? Zacchaeus is a man in today's Bible story. People did not like him. Zacchaeus was dishonest and greedy. Why do you suppose he is in that tree? Listen to our Bible story to find out. Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of themselves and then draw Jesus walking toward them. Remind preschoolers that like **Jesus loved Zacchaeus**, Jesus loves them.

## Pray

Pray for the children.

Say • Thank You, God, that Jesus looked for Zacchaeus up in that sycamore tree. Thank You that You sent Your Son to come to earth to rescue people like Zacchaeus and people like us. Help us trust in You and to turn away from our sin. Amen.