

**Bible Story:** Zacchaeus – Luke 19: 1-10

**Bottom Line:** Play fair with others.

**Memory Verse:** “I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.”  
Philippians 3:14 NIV



**PLUG IN:** (prior to service 10-15 minutes) **Supplies: None**

1. What does it mean for someone to be unfair?
2. Have you ever heard of the word *taxes*? What would it mean to be a *tax collector*? Do you think people would like or dislike a tax collector?
3. When you play fair, who does it help more—you or others?

Go to the GARAGE 

**CATCH ON:**

**Review Bible Story (if needed) discussed in Garage time.**

Zacchaeus – Luke 19: 1-10

**Act it Out** (25-35 minutes) **Supplies: None**

**Do:**

1. Open the Bible to Luke 19:1-10 and read the story of Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus.
2. Have the kids act out the story of Zacchaeus. Select a child to play Jesus, Zacchaeus, the tree, the crowd, etc. You could even have one child get down on all fours for Zacchaeus to climb on while another child uses their arms to be the branches of the tree. Allow the kids to get creative and come up with their own ideas.

**Say:** “You guys did a GREAT job coming up with a creative way to retell this story. Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life that day, helping him to see how he had hurt others and how he could make it right. If we're honest, we can all think of situations where we acted a bit like Zacchaeus did. God wants us to put others first and to make it right with others when we hurt them. That's playing fair with others. SO remember, just like Zacchaeus, to always **play fair.**”

## **MEMORY VERSE:** (10-15 minutes) **Supplies:** Bibles, **Philippians Memory Verse Cards**

**Activity Page– 3 sets per group**

“I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself.” Philippians 3:14 NIV

### **Verse Search**

**Do:**

1. Read the memory verse together as a review.
2. Split your group into three teams. Teams will race against each other to put the verse together. Before you give them the cards, pull out three or four words from two of the verse sets (leaving only one set complete).
3. Place the three sets of cards across the room from the teams. Have the kids run to the cards, grab one card at a time and bring them back to the start. Once all cards have been collected, teams will race to put the verse in order.
4. Because two of the groups have incomplete sets of cards, one team will win no matter what. After this team finishes, talk about what happened. Why did the game seem unfair? How does it make you feel to know the game was unfair to start with? Why is it important to play fair with others?

**Say:** “It’s one thing to play a game against each other where everyone has the same chance to win. But it’s a completely different thing to lose knowing that the game wasn’t fair to begin with. Sorry I fooled you! That definitely wasn’t playing fair. God wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated, to think about their needs before our own and to play fair. It’s not always easy, but it’s always right. So remember to **play fair.**”

**Close in Prayer:** “Heavenly Father, You are an awesome God. Thanks so much for sending Jesus to Earth to show us how to live. Help us to make things right when we’ve wronged someone and to be willing to forgive others when they hurt us too. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

**REMINDE STUDENTS TO GET A GODTIME CARD ONLINE OR AT THE GUEST SERVICE DESK**

### **IF TIME...**

Time after diving into and completing the lesson...

Please utilize the **BOTTOM LINE, VIRTUE DEFINITION, or MEMORY VERSE** in the early finisher activities in the cabinet. Choose one or two to always have in your mind prior to using one. No Materials Required.