

BIBLE WORDS

“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIV

Zacchaeus

LUKE 19:1-10

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS LOVES EVERYONE.

BASIC TRUTH

**JESUS WANTS TO BE MY
FRIEND FOREVER.**

STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That’s okay. They’re still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible

LEADER: “Hello, friends! I’m so glad to see you! Today we are going to act out our Bible story.

“In our Bible story, we learned about a man named Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector. That meant he took money from all the people. But Zacchaeus took more money than he was supposed to, and that made people mad.

“One day Jesus came to town, and everyone went to see Him—even Zacchaeus. But Zacchaeus was too short to see over the crowd. Stand up, everyone. Jump up and down. Can we see over the crowd? (*Demonstrate.*) That didn’t work, because we’re back on the ground. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to get higher! Let’s climb a tree. (*Demonstrate.*) That worked! Zacchaeus could see Jesus, and Jesus could see him.

“Jesus said, ‘Zacchaeus! Come down right away. I want to go to your house today!’ All the people thought, ‘Why would Jesus want to go with him? He’s made so many bad choices. So Zacchaeus climbed down the tree. Everyone climb down the tree. (*Demonstrate.*) Great job!

“Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had done something wrong. Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus loved him and was his friend that he gave back all the money he took from the people. There is nothing we can do to make Jesus stop loving us. Give me a high five. (*Demonstrate.*) Jesus loves you and you and you! **Jesus loves everyone.**”

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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: “Heart” Activity Page, red washable inkpad, wet wipes, and a pen

WHAT YOU DO:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Retell the story. Help children cover one of their hands with ink and place it in the center of the heart on their paper.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Today we learned that **Jesus loves everyone.** He loves us when we make good choices and when we make some not-so-good choices.

“Let’s cover your hand with ink, and we’ll place it in the center of the heart. (Pause.) Great job!

“Today in our story we learned about Zacchaeus. He made some bad choices and didn’t know if Jesus still loved him, but Jesus did! Jesus loves us no matter what! Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus loved him and wanted to be his friend that he gave back all the money he took. Jesus loved Zacchaeus, and He loves us too. **Jesus loves everyone.**”