



## WEEK THREE – FEBRUARY 2024 – PRESCHOOL

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

**Key Question:** Who does Jesus love?

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus loves everyone*

**Memory Verse:** *“Be kind and loving to each other.” – Ephesians 4:32*

**Basic Truth:** *Jesus wants to be my friend forever.*

**Series Overview:** There is a food truck for just about every kind of food, and when the food trucks are lined up, the whole community comes out. Some people like noodles. Some people like tacos. Some people like hot dogs. And others head straight for the funnel cakes! Next time you see a row of food trucks look around at all the people in line. Take time to thank Jesus because Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves the sour as well as the sweet; the spicy as well as the mild; the simple as well as the complicated; your favorites and your not-so-favorites. Jesus loves everyone!

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## 9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

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### Opening Small Group Activity

*Play: an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts*

**What You Need:** Popsicle sticks

### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Gather children around your circle
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Ask children to use three popsicle sticks to make a triangle
  - Ask children to make a square with four popsicle sticks
  - Then, ask children to move the triangle to the top of their square
  - Encourage them to build their own house with popsicle sticks
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Introduce today’s Bible story as you talk about how Jesus came to someone’s house

### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Friends, come gather here around the table. We’re going to build some shapes with these popsicle sticks today!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Everyone, take three popsicle sticks. Let’s count together—one, two, three! Now, let’s make a triangle. (*Demonstrate.*) Great job! Now, take four popsicle sticks. Let’s count together—one, two, three, four! Now, let’s make a square. (*Demonstrate.*) Super-duper! Now, what can you make if you put the triangle and the square together? (*Pause.*) You made a house! Great job! Make a different house with the popsicle sticks, any shape you want! (*Pause.*) You made some amazing houses!”

- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “In our Bible Story today, we’ll hear about how Jesus went to someone’s house. Let’s go hear more about it! Come with me.”
- *TRANSITION*
  - Move to Worship and Story by pretending to travel different ways to a friend’s house

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**9:15 - 9:45 | 11:15 – 11:45 – LARGE GROUP**

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**Large Group Overview: Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong.** Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus. We can only imagine the look on Zacchaeus’ face when he saw Jesus walking towards him as he sat perched in a tree. Maybe Zacchaeus thought Jesus was going to tell him that being a tax collector was wrong. Maybe he thought Jesus was going to tell him he should be ashamed of his bad choices. But that’s not what happened. Instead, Jesus tells Zacchaeus He wants to stay at his house. Why? Because Jesus loves everyone.

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**9:45 – 10:05 | 11:45 – 12:05 – SMALL GROUP**

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**Move This Way**

**[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

*Move: an activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Gather with children and spread out a little bit in your circle space
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*

- Lead children in doing specific movements as you review the Bible Story together
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - Review the Bottom Line together

### **What You Say:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Come stand with me! We’re going to move to the story together!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “I’m going to say some words that tell the Bible Story and show you how to move while I say them. Just watch me and I’ll tell you what to say and do. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. (*Make a pulling motion with both hands.*) His job was to take money from people. But sometimes he took more money than he was supposed to. This was very wrong to do. (*Shake head and hands no.*) So no one was friends with him. Then Jesus came to town one day. (*Look up. Make a climbing motion with arms and legs.*) Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see! “Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down. (*Pretend you are eating.*) He was going to his house to eat! “Zacchaeus was so happy that day! (*Jump up and down with happy faces.*) Jesus was his friend! He gave back to the people the money he had taken from them! It’s amazing how people can change (*hug yourself*) when we show some love to them. (*Repeat as desired.*) “That was great, friends!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he had done something wrong, because **Jesus loves everyone. Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!** And that means Jesus loves us even when we do something wrong too. Jesus will never stop loving us!”

## Journal + Prayer

### [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding + application*

**What You Need:** “Memory Verse Card” Activity Page; Bible; pen

### What You Do:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - Place “Memory Verse Card in Bible at Ephesians 4:32
    - Keep this card in your Bible all month long
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - Sit down and gather the children around you
  - Review the Memory Verse and motions, then encourage the children to make a list 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 almost the end of Small Group time! Today we’re going to pretend we’re climbing a tree, like this (*demonstrate*), while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me! (*Pretend to climb as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Okay, little climbers, let’s sit down so we can 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 was kind and loving to Zacchaeus because **Jesus loves everyone**, even when we do something wrong, like Zacchaeus. **Who does Jesus love? Jesus loves everyone!***”
  - “The Bible verse we’re learning tells us how to love everyone. It says: ‘Be kind and loving (*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians 4:32. (*Open hands like a book.*) Stand up with me, and let’s say that together! Just say what I say and do what I do. ‘Be kind and loving

(*cross hands over chest*) to each other,’ (*spread arms out*) Ephesians4:32.  
(*Open hands like a book.*)

- “You are so smart! I’m proud of you! (*Give fist bumps.*) 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. **Jesus loves 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 and to show us how to love others. 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.”