



WEEK THREE – FEBRUARY 2026 – SECOND/THIRD

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

Bottom Line: *The love of Jesus changes people.*

Memory Verse: *“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.” (John 13:34, NIRV)*

Conversation Starter: *How can love change things?*

Application: *Love – Choosing to treat others the way Jesus treats us.*

Series Overview: What’s the first thing you want to do when you discover a funny video or listen to a powerful podcast? Share it, of course! That’s why we chose “Like and Subscribe: Share the love of Jesus” as this month’s theme. We want kids to know that there’s nothing more awesome they can share with others than the love and adventure of a life with Jesus.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Before kids arrive, pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that His love is powerful enough to change us from the inside out. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time Jesus' love made you want to be a better, kinder person. Ask God to help the kids experience Jesus' love so much that it makes them want to be kind, to share, and to say sorry when they mess up. Pray they would see that Jesus loves them no matter what, even when they mess up.*
 - *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these:
 - *What was your favorite part of this last week?*
 - *What is something that makes you feel loved?*
 - *How do you show love to your friends and family?*
 - *How can showing people love change things?*
 - *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*
 - *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
 - Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity
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9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: Tic Tac Love Activity Page; Game Pieces

What You Do:

- Pair the kids up.
- Give each pair a “Tic Tac Love” board and game pieces.
- Show them how to play Tic-Tac-Toe. One person will be “Jesus” and the other will be “Hearts.”
- Invite them to play several rounds against each other.
- Encourage them to cheer for each other, even if they lose a round.

What You Say:

“Tic-Tac-Toe is such a fun game! It’s great to play with friends. In our true story from the Bible today, we’re going to hear about a man named Zacchaeus who didn’t have many friends because he was a dishonest tax collector. But one day, he met Jesus, who saw him, and it changed everything! Let’s go find out what happened.”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

In Week 3, Jesus singles out Zacchaeus, a tax collector who has scrambled up a tree for a better view. Instead of scolding Zacchaeus for stealing from his neighbors, Jesus invites himself over to the tax collector’s house for a party. Profoundly changed by Jesus’ love and acceptance, Zacchaeus offers to pay back anyone he has cheated—four times as much! [BOTTOM LINE] The love of Jesus can change things for the better.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: Optional coloring pages for kids

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in small group space
- If kids need something to do with their hands, they can color during discussion!
- Talk about the discussion questions below with the kids!
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What You Say:

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to see Jesus. What do you think made him want to see Jesus life?
- Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and wanted to spend time with him, even though others called Zacchaeus a “sinner.” What does this teach you about how Jesus sees people who have messed up or feel left out?
- Zacchaeus didn’t just feel loved—he changed. Why do you think experiencing Jesus’ love made Zacchaeus want to make things right instead of being told to?
- The crowd judged Zacchaeus and whispered about him but Jesus chose kindness. When have you seen someone judged by others, and chosen to be kind?

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

[Live For God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Cardstock Door Hangers; Coloring Pages; Foam Heart Stickers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a door hanger.
- Let them decorate it with the coloring supplies.

- As they color, talk about how Zacchaeus’s life was changed. Ask: “How can you show Jesus’ love to others when you are at home or on the go with your family?”

What You Say:

“These look so great! You can hang this on a door to help everyone remember to share the love of Jesus. Zacchaeus’s life was changed so much by Jesus’ love that he wanted to make things right. He promised to give half of what he owned to the poor and to pay back four times the amount to anyone he had cheated! He learned that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**”

RESPOND WITH LOVE

[Live For God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Respond with Love Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Read one of the scenario cards aloud.
- Ask the group, “What would you normally want to do in that situation?” (e.g., get mad, say something mean back)
- Then ask: “How can you respond with the love of Jesus instead?”
- Brainstorm kind and loving responses together.
- Continue with each of the scenarios.

What You Say:

“It’s not always easy to choose love, is it? But when we remember how Jesus loved Zacchaeus—even when he had done wrong things—it helps us. Even when everyone was whispering that Jesus had gone to be the ‘guest of a sinner,’ Jesus chose love. We can ask Jesus to help us show love to others too. Zacchaeus’s response of generosity and making things right shows that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**”