



WEEK THREE – FEBRUARY 2026 – KINDER/FIRST

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!

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.**”

VOICE THE VERSE

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form groups of 2-3.
- Give every group a Bible and direct them to look up John 13:34 using the Bible
 - *Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open their Bibles to the marked page. Point to the book name at the top of the page as you say it aloud. Then, guide children to find the big number on the page—this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big number for the little number; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read it aloud. Then, lead everyone to say the verse together.*
 - *Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. You can help by pointing out the first few letters of the book’s name. When the kids find the book, lead them to look at the*

page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the right chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter

- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Tell the kids you're going to practice the Memory Verse in lots of fun ways.
- Read the verse together in a normal voice first: "I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."
John 13:34
- Then, challenge the kids to say the verse in different voices.
- "Now, let's sing it like opera singers!" (Use big, booming voices.)
- "Now, let's shout it like a coach!" (Cup hands around mouth and shout.)
- "Now, let's say it like robots!" (Use a monotone, choppy voice.)
- "Now, let's whisper it like it's a secret!"
- Let kids suggest other silly voices to try and try saying the verse in them!

What You Say:

"That was so fun! No matter how we say it, the message is the same: Jesus commands us to love. Jesus told the crowd that He, the Son of Man, the Messiah, came to look for the lost and save them. Zacchaeus was lost in his selfish choices, but Jesus found him! And Zacchaeus changed! When we do what Jesus commands, we see that **[Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**"