

K-5 | W3

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are included as optional)

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Like It or Not (K-1st grade), Unbox the Story (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension (4th-5th Grade)

Application Activity: Change for the Better Hanger (K-1st grade),

Respond with Love (2nd-3rd grade),

Take a Snapshot (4th-5th Grade)

Memory Verse Activity: Voice the Verse (K-1st grade), Draw the Verse (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (4th-5th Grade)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



Bible Story

Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Bottom Line

The love of Jesus changes people.

Monthly 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 NIV

5 min

Large Group Opener

5 min

OPENER

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Hi, everyone! What a great time to be at [environment name]!"

"So, this month we're talking all about our series 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus' because when you see something awesome online, you like it and subscribe to it because you don't want to miss a minute of awesomeness. And you want to share that awesomeness with your friends and family too!"

"This month we're talking about the love of God! That's definitely not something you want to miss a second of! And you so want to share it! "Let's start things off with a question: who knows what it means to be an *influencer*?"

Let kids respond: "someone who has followers," "someone people copy," etc.

"Exactly! An influencer is someone who others look up to, someone who sets a trend or shows people what to do. And there are different kinds of influencers, people who specialize in different areas of interest. Well, today we're going to find out what kind of influencers you can be in a fun game called '**The Influence Challenge!**'

SLIDE: The Influence Challenge! Title

"Each round, one of you will be our *influencer*. I'll tell you what type of influencer you are, and whatever you do, everyone else has to follow your lead and copy what you do. After each round, we'll switch influencers and try something totally new. Sound good?"

"Time for the first influencer. If you'd like to be our first influencer, raise your hand!"

Choose a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them on stage.

"All right, it's time to start 'The Influence Challenge!' Let's go viral ... in a good way!"

Round 1

HOST: "Our first influencer is a *Day-in-the-Life Influencer!*"

"This influencer shares what a normal day looks like, brushing their teeth, eating breakfast, going to school, hanging out, playing at home—all the little things people love to watch."

"Alright, [kid's name] show us your best 'day in the life' by miming, and everyone else, follow along! You mime right along with what the influencer is doing!"

AUDIO: Upbeat pop music

Influencer mimes brushing teeth, backpacking to school, eating breakfast. Kids copy.

"Yes! Get ready, head out the door, eat those waffles! You're amazing!"
Stop the music.

"Nice work! That's a day well-lived! You'd have a million views already! Influencer, you can head to your seat! If you want to be our next influencer, raise your hand!"

Choose a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them on stage.

Round 2

HOST: "Allright, our next influencer is a *Sports Influencer*! You're the star of every highlight reel, showing off the best moves for your followers! Everyone else, mime what the influencer does!"

AUDIO: Upbeat sports anthem

Influencer acts out dribbling, shooting, kicking, cheering. Kids copy.

"Big win! You just scored the game-winning point! The crowd's going wild!"

Stop the music.

"Great job, athletes! You're trending on SportsTube right now! Influencer, thank you! You can head to your seat! Who wants to be our next influencer? Raise your hand!"

Choose a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them on stage.

Round 3

HOST: "Okay, time for our next influencer, the *Cooking Influencer*!"

"You've got your own channel where you show off your recipes. Get ready to cook, flip, and taste!"

AUDIO: Playful music

Influencer mimes cooking, stirring, flipping pancakes. Kids follow.

"Mmm! Smells like five-star likes and follows!"

Stop the music.

"Awesome work, chefs, your cooking video just went viral! Influencer, thank you! You can head to your seat! If you want to be our next influencer, raise your hand!"

Choose a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them on stage.

Round 4

HOST: "Next up, a *Gamer Influencer*! You're live-streaming your best game ever, show us your pro skills!"

AUDIO: Electronic 8-bit or synth beat

Influencer mimes gaming, celebrating, victory poses. Kids follow.

"Yes! You leveled up! You're trending on every platform!"

Stop the music.

"Great game, influencers! Influencer, thank you! You can head to your seat! Who wants to be our next influencer? If you do, raise your hand!"

Choose a volunteer from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them on stage.

Round 5

HOST: "All right, final round! Our last influencer is a *Vacation Influencer*!"

"You travel to amazing places and share your adventures with your followers. Show us how you relax, pose for pictures, or explore!"

AUDIO: Tropical vacation music

Influencer acts out taking selfies, surfing, relaxing. Kids copy.

"Yes! Big smiles, big waves, big fun! You're trending worldwide!"

Stop the music.

"Influencer, thank you! You can return to your seat!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

"Wow! You guys were amazing influencers, and great followers too! Every round, we followed someone new. We copied their moves, their ideas, their style. But you know what? The greatest influencer of all time isn't someone online. It's Jesus. Because those people's influence only lasts for a little while. Jesus' influence lasts forever.

"Jesus *loves people no matter what*. Today we're going to learn about the true story of a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus had made a lot of bad decisions, so much so that people didn't like him very much. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he was totally changed—not because Jesus told him to be different, but because Jesus *loved* him. And that's what God's love does, it changes people. When we follow Jesus, His love changes *us*, and it helps us influence others in amazing ways too!

"So remember this: **The love of Jesus changes people.** Let's go out and influence the world with that kind of love this week!"

13 min

Worship

Note: We've suggested worship songs below from Amazing Kids Worship and Orange Kids Music. We've created these songs to be developmentally appropriate for elementary and preteen kids, incorporating simple, direct language, fun dance movements, and upbeat, current arrangements.

We've chosen these specific songs that amplify our teaching content for this month. We recommend that you use these songs as scripted below, or combined with other popular worship songs that your kids know and love. Be sure to share the links to these songs with parents so they can stream them at home or in the car! Songs can be purchased at store.thinkorange.com or for free with APlay.

3 min

OPTION 1 (Amazing Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! It's a great day to worship God together! Here's what's amazing: when we sing to God and think about His love, it doesn't just stay in the room. God's love starts to *change* us. It fills us up so much that we can't help but share it with others! When we know God's love, we can't hide it, we have to share it!"

SONG: "Need Your Love" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

"Wow, I love hearing you sing that. When we worship, we're reminding ourselves that God's love is real, and that love can change us. That's what happened to a man named Zacchaeus in our true story from the Bible today. He met Jesus, and his life was completely changed. And guess what? The same thing can happen to us. When we follow Jesus, His love helps us live differently, to love others, to forgive, and to be kind.

"Our next song is all about that, about choosing to *live out* God's love every day. Let's sing this one from our hearts. When we know Jesus, His love doesn't just stay inside; it shows up in how we live. Let's sing and tell God we want to live out His love every day!"

SONG: "Jesus We Love You" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

SONG: "How He Loves" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available for free with Amazing Music on APlay until January 1, 2026.

3 min

OPTION 2 (Orange Kids Music)

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, everyone! It's a great day to worship God together! Here's what's amazing: when we sing to God and think about His love, it doesn't just stay in the room. God's love starts to *change* us. It fills us up so much that we can't help but share it with others! When we know God's love, we can't hide it, we have to share it!"

SONG: "Can't Contain It" from Live It Out available on store.thinkorange.com

"Wow, I love hearing you sing that. When we worship, we're reminding ourselves that God's love is real, and that love can change us. That's what happened to a man named Zacchaeus in our true story from the Bible today. He met Jesus, and his life was completely changed. And guess what? The same thing can happen to us. When we follow Jesus, His love helps us live differently, to love others, to forgive, and to be kind."

"Our next song is all about that, about choosing to *live out* God's love every day. Let's sing this one from our hearts. When we know Jesus, His love doesn't just stay inside; it shows up in how we live. Let's sing and tell God we want to live out His love every day!"

SONG: "Live Your Love" from Can't Stop Won't Stop available on store.thinkorange.com

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

No supplies needed

"You all did an amazing job singing! Those songs remind us that God's love isn't something we just keep to ourselves; it's something we live and share. This month's Memory Verse helps us remember that love starts with Jesus and moves through us."

"This month's Memory Verse is John 13:34! I'll read it, and then we can say it together!"

SLIDE: 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.
"Let's say it together!"*

KIDS AND WORSHIP LEADER: *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you." — John 13:34"*

2 min

Worship Closer

What You Need

No supplies needed

WORSHIPLEADER: "Awesome job, everyone! That verse is so powerful. Jesus told us to love each other the way He loves us.

"And when we do that, our lives shine like lights in the world. So let's go out this week and *love God, love others*, and share that light wherever we go!"

24 min

Bible Story (Video)

12 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

12 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

33 min

Bible Story (Live)

3 min

INTRODUCTION

What You Need

No supplies needed

Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Place the box with props inside on the table.

STORYTELLER: "I'm so excited to get to learn more about God with you today! What an awesome way to spend time together!"

"All month long as we've been hanging out together, we have been talking about our series called 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus,' because when you see something awesome online, you totally like it and subscribe to it, and you share it with your friends and family because it's so awesome!"

"This month we're talking about the love of God! That's for sure something you don't want to miss a bit of, and you totally want to share!"

"Today's true story from the Bible is about a man who just, well, he had made a ton of bad decisions. But Jesus loved him anyway, and Jesus' love completely changed him!"

"But before we get into that amazing true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

"Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we'll learn about God."

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (Gesture to slide.)

SLIDE: *God's Big Story*

"Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

"You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

"But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

"God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

"After God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they disobeyed God—again and again and again. Even the kings God gave them rebelled! So, God split the nation in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

"During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

"And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

"And that's where we are in God's Big Story!"

5 min

SETTING UP THE STORY

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "We are continuing on our journey through the Bible! We've reached the part of the Bible where Jesus was on earth! And today we're going to hear a story from His life, about a man who had made a lot of poor decisions.

"Take a few seconds to think about your answer to this question: Have you ever done something that made people not like you very much? Maybe you said something mean or took something that wasn't yours. Or maybe you have known someone who has done something wrong, and you didn't want to be around them.

"That's kind of how today's story starts, with a man who wasn't very popular because he had made a lot of bad choices. Let me read what the Bible says:

Open the Bible to Luke 19:1-2 (NIV) and read.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. "Now, back in Bible times, Jewish tax collectors took money from their own people for the Roman government. These men paid their own salaries from that money, but some of these tax collectors took more money than they were supposed to and kept the extra for themselves. Zacchaeus had done that. No one liked tax collectors ... especially not a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus was rich because he had taken from other people. Not cool, right? Not cool ...

"But something amazing happened one day when Zacchaeus met Jesus. Jesus' love changed his whole life! But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's go through the story together. I've got some stuff inside this box that will help us as we learn Zacchaeus's story today. (Gesture to the box.)

5 min

JESUS SEES US WHERE WE ARE

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "The Bible tells us that:

Open the Bible to Luke 19:3-5 (NIV) and read.

Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way. Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." Hold up the branch.

"This branch reminds us of a sycamore tree. Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but there was a problem—he was *too short!* He couldn't see over the crowd at all. But Zacchaeus wasn't going to let this moment pass him by. He got creative. He saw a tree—and boom—he knew what to do! Climb it!

"Can you imagine that with me? There was a huge crowd, and Zacchaeus couldn't see Jesus, so he climbed up a tree. And out of the

5 min

JESUS LOVES US NO MATTER WHAT

What You Need

No supplies needed

whole crowd, Jesus stopped, looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and called him by name!

"Zacchaeus probably thought, 'Wait, me? Jesus is talking to me? The guy everyone hates?' This was turning into the best day ever for Zacchaeus!!

"Isn't it amazing that Jesus saw Zacchaeus—knowing the bad things he'd done—and loved him anyway? And guess what? Jesus loves *you* that way too. He loves you no matter what you've done, right where you are."

STORYTELLER: "Let's see what else is in our box."

Open the Bible to Luke 19:8-10 (NIV) and read.

Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

Pull out the bag of coins.

"Money! Zacchaeus spent his life collecting as much as he could—even if it meant cheating people.

"But when Jesus called him down from that tree, Zacchaeus must have felt something he hadn't felt in a long time, love. Not judgment, not anger, just love.

"Zacchaeus had lived a life that wasn't very good, he was a sinner, and he cared a lot about things that hurt him and other people. Even though Zacchaeus was a sinner, that didn't stop Jesus from talking to Zacchaeus and Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus!

"The crowd didn't understand why Jesus would want to hang out with someone like Zacchaeus. But Jesus didn't wait for Zacchaeus to fix his life first; He just loved him.

"That's what Jesus does for us too. We don't have to be perfect before we come to Him. He loves us first, and that love begins to change us.

5 min

JESUS' LOVE CHANGES US FROM THE INSIDE OUT

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER: "And now, our last item, look at this!"

Hold up the heart.

"This heart reminds us of how **[Bottom Line]** the love of Jesus changes people.

"When Zacchaeus felt that love, he made a big decision. Zacchaeus didn't just say he was sorry, he changed!

"He gave away money to people in need and paid back everyone he had cheated.

Hold up the coins.

"The thing he loved, he started giving away! Why? Because Jesus' love changed him!

"That's what the love of Jesus does—it changes people from the inside out. When we understand how much Jesus loves us, we start to love others the same way. We forgive, we share, and we choose what's right,

because His love fills our hearts. So don't forget what we've learned today."

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "The love of Jesus changes people. Say that with me."

Host enters and joins in.

KIDS, STORYTELLER, AND HOST: **[Bottom Line]** "The love of Jesus changes people."

5 min

GOD'S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "Let's take a look at the progress we made in God's Big Story this week!"

SLIDE: God's Big Story

"This week, we're up here in the part of this picture of God's Big Story—the picture that says, 'Jesus' Life.' Jesus Himself came to teach us about who God is!"

"This week, we read about something that happened while Jesus was on earth. God spent years and years of His Big Story paving the way for Jesus to come on earth because when Jesus came, He showed everybody what God is like because He is God. God really, really wants us to know what He is like! And when Jesus encountered Zacchaeus, a man who had done a tremendous amount wrong, Jesus welcomed him. God was saying, 'I love you no matter what you've done.' Jesus' love changed Zacchaeus. And when Jesus was going around showing everyone what God is like, He never sinned. He lived an absolutely perfect life. Jesus showed God's great love when He gave up that perfect life, paid for our sin, broke that awful curse we were under, and rescued us. The God of all showed how deep His love goes by dying to rescue us all! We are so very loved by God!"

"Let's put the next image on our timeline!"

SLIDE: Week 3 Timeline Image

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's Timeline Image on the clothesline.

"And this week, we saw how the love of Jesus can change people ... even people like Zacchaeus!"

8 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

HOST: "So what's our part in the story?

"The same love that Zacchaeus experienced, we can too! And the people we know and meet can experience that love as well!

"Jesus sees us when we mess up. He knows when we make selfish choices. And still, He loves us right where we are—just like He loved Zacchaeus. But Jesus' love doesn't stop there. His love changes us from the inside out. When we start spending time with Jesus, talking to Him, learning about Him, following His example, we begin to change too!

"Maybe you start being kinder to your friends. Maybe you choose to tell the truth instead of hiding it. Maybe you forgive someone who hurt you. That's the love of Jesus at work in your heart. Because when you know Jesus loves you, you don't stay the same, you start to live more like Him every day!

"When you meet Jesus and learn just how much He loves you, His love will change your heart, your choices, and your life. And then it's easier to show God's love to other people too.

"Showing the love of Jesus to someone doesn't guarantee that they'll change, but it does open the door.

"So where do we start? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with God's love and show you ways to love others during your day! And pray that they will experience the love of Jesus that will change their life!

3 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

STORYTELLER or HOST: "Let's talk to the God who loves you so much.

"Dear God, thank You that Your love is so powerful it changes people from the inside out. Thank You for loving us as we are, but also loving us so much that we don't stay the way we are. Help us to remember Your deep, personal love for us every day, just like You showed Zacchaeus. Holy Spirit, would You fill us with Your power so we can boldly share that love with the people around us? We love You, and we pray these in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.