

K1 | W3



Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (3 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

Pray & Dismiss (2 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.

Bible Story

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Bottom Line

The love of Jesus can change things for the better.

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



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Greeting & Prayer



What You Need

- A Spinning Wheel
- Prayer Chart

① What You Do

Pray for your group before they 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.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each color matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

② What You Say

“Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation.”

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

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ACTIVITY ONE

Like it or Not

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Floor tape



What You Do:

- Place a line of tape down the center of your Small Group room.
- Instruct all of the kids to stand on the line.
- Explain that one side of the line is the "Like" side and the other is the "Don't Like" side.
- Start by calling out some fun things and have them jump to the side that matches their opinion.
 - "Pineapple on pizza!"*
 - "Doing homework!"*
 - "Touching slime!"*
 - "Building with LEGO®!"*
- After a few fun ones, switch to reviewing the Bible Story. Say a statement about the Bible Story. If it happened in the story, instruct the kids to go to the "like" side. If it didn't happen, direct the kids to go to the "don't like" side.
 - "Zacchaeus was a very tall man." ("Don't like" side)*
 - "Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus." ("Like" side)*
 - "Jesus was angry with Zacchaeus." ("Don't like" side)*
 - "Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house for dinner." ("Like" side)*
 - "Zacchaeus decided to give back the money he had stolen." ("Like" side)*

What You Say:

"You know this story so well! People did not like Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector who cheated his neighbors. Since Zacchaeus was not very tall, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus. But Jesus looked up, called him by name, and said, 'I must stay at your house today' (Luke 19:5 NIV). Jesus showed him love no matter what he had done, and that made all the difference. It's true that [Bottom Line] the love of Jesus can change things for the better."

Inclusive Pro Tips



Use thumbs-up and thumbs-down if not all children can sit and stand easily.

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ACTIVITY TWO

Change for the better Hanger



What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Change for the Better Hanger” Activity Page.
- 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?”
- Help them cut out the hanger and the circle at the top.
- Read the verse on the hanger together.

What You Need

- “Change for the Better Hanger” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies

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.”

Inclusive Pro Tips



Print “Verse Motions” Activity Pages to support visual learners and readers who want to follow along on their own copies of the motions.

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GROUPS 4/4

Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



What You Say

“Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for the story of Zacchaeus that shows us Your love can change anyone. Please be with the people we prayed for today. Help us to be like Jesus and show them Your love, because we know Your love can make everything better. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

No supplies needed

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share one promise from today’s Bible Story that God kept and remind the kids to share that [Bottom Line] Jesus is good news for everyone.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Instead of praying silently, give options for the kids to write or doodle to God quietly.