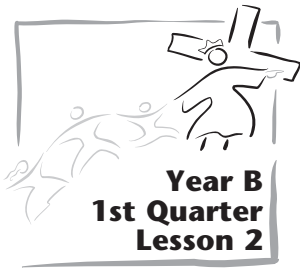


LESSON



Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

GRACE

Jesus loves me unconditionally.

References

Luke 19:1-10; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 552-556.

Memory Verse

"God is love" (1 John 4:8, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Jesus loves them all the time.

Feel accepted and loved by God.

Respond by thanking God for His love.

The Message



Jesus loves me all the time.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Zacchaeus is a tax collector. He wants to know more about Jesus. When Jesus comes to Jericho, Zacchaeus climbs up a tree to see him. Jesus asks to go to his house, showing how much He loves him. Zacchaeus accepts Jesus' love and forgiveness.

This is a lesson about grace.

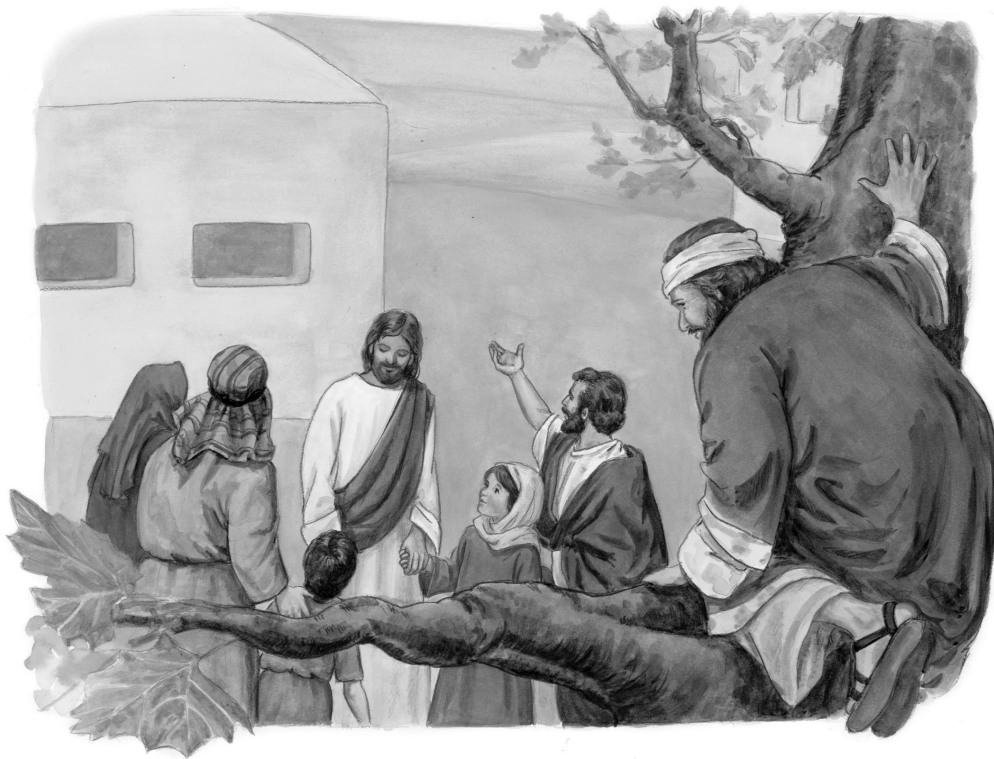
Young children need unconditional

grace to feel secure. This lesson helps to teach them that Jesus loves us no matter what we do and that His love is a power that changes us, and gives us constant security.

Teacher Enrichment

"It is when Christ is received as a personal Saviour that salvation comes to the soul. Zacchaeus had received

TWO



Jesus, not merely as a passing guest in his home, but as One to abide in the soul temple. The scribes and Pharisees accused him as a sinner, . . . but the Lord recognized him as a son of Abraham" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 556).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1. Add steps or boxes going up to the tree.

Program Overview

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1	Parent Time	up to 5		
2	Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Book Basket</i> B. <i>Peekaboo Basket</i> C. <i>Rock-a-Bye, Baby</i> D. <i>Climbing Blocks</i> E. <i>Measuring</i> F. <i>Counting</i> G. <i>Rocking Chair</i>	books about trees and God's gifts of love hand towels, play objects dolls, blankets climbing blocks, small slide growth chart, tape, pencil large objects, containers adult-sized rocking chair
3	Getting Started	up to 10	A. Welcome B. Prayer C. Visitors D. Offering E. Birthdays	bells offering container, heart shapes, pictures or stickers of Jesus artificial birthday cake, candles, coins (optional), matches, small gift (optional)
4	Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>Find the Money</i> C. <i>Jesus Comes to Town</i> D. <i>Climb a Tree</i> E. <i>Jesus Forgives</i> F. <i>Dinner Guest</i> G. <i>Return the Money</i> H. <i>Jesus Loves Us</i>	felt or cardboard "Bibles" large cutout coins (see p. 67), basket or large purse tree used in room decorations, step-ladder, large picture or felt Jesus table and chair from room decorations, plastic plates and cups, snack (optional) large cutout coins (see p. 67), basket or large purse Jesus banners, mirror, children of the world felts or pictures

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10 Week 1	<i>Tree</i>	copies of tree outline (see p. 68), crayons, cotton balls, pressed leaves or green paper, glue sticks
	Week 2	<i>Jesus Loves You</i>	copies of heart pattern (see p. 69), pencils, Jesus stickers or pictures of Jesus and glue sticks (optional)
	Week 3	<i>Leaf Rubbing</i>	large leaves with veins, paper, thick crayons
	Week 4	<i>Coin Purse</i>	small envelopes, "coins" (see p. 67), crayons or stickers
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Jesus Loves Me</i>	copies of three-section card (see p. 70), crayons, markers
Snack Center (Optional)			fruit, snacks, napkins, or baby wipes

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

"Why are you out of your room?" Shelly frowned at Andrew. The busy toddler should have been napping.

"My truck hot," he replied.

Following him into the room, she gasped. On the bed was a lamp Andrew

had pulled down off the dresser. A little plastic truck and some crayons were melting on the bulb. It had burned through the bedspread, two sheets, the mattress pad, and was beginning to burn the mattress!

Needless to say, it wasn't Shelly's crowning moment of motherhood! We all have moments of crisis that zap our strength and paralyze us with fear. But no matter how unsafe or naughty our children act, and no matter how we parents respond, God still loves them and us because of His grace.

What has been your response to a frightening situation your child has been in? Does how you respond depend on it being innocent curiosity or defiant behavior?

Week 2

My 2-year-old seemed to sail through the “terrible twos” without much of a fuss. But when 3 hit, things changed. He became very strong-willed. One evening as my husband was giving him a bath, Carson poured water out of the tub. My husband reminded him not to do that.

Carson defiantly disagreed out loud and then said, “I’m the guy who blows out the candle.”

What in the world does that mean? my husband thought.

Later when he told me about it, we decided Carson must be thinking about the song “This Little Light of Mine,” which we had sung at worship that night. Carson knew he was being naughty like Satan (“Don’t let Satan blow it out. I’m gonna let it shine.”). At such a young age children know when they are not doing the right thing!

Share about a time when you saw your child demonstrate their knowledge of right and wrong. Let’s pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work on our children’s young minds to convict them of right and wrong.

Week 3

“As the mothers passed along the dusty road and drew near the Savior, He saw the unbidden tear and the quivering lip, as they offered a silent prayer in behalf of the children. He heard the words of rebuke from the disciples and promptly countermanded the order. His great heart of love was open to receive the children. One after another, He took them in His arms and blessed them, while one little child lay fast asleep, reclining against His bosom. Jesus spoke words of encouragement to the mothers in reference to their work, and, oh, what a relief was thus brought to their minds! With what joy they dwelt upon the goodness and mercy

of Jesus, as they looked back to that memorable occasion! His gracious words had removed the burden from their hearts and inspired them with fresh hope and courage. All sense of weariness was gone” (*The Adventist Home*, pp. 273, 274).

What words of encouragement would you love to hear Jesus speaking to you today?

Week 4

I know how Zacchaeus must have felt. As my son approaches his fifth birthday, he’s the size of an average 2½-year-old. It’s hard not to compare his stature with younger kids. I wonder how it will be for him when he starts school. He’ll surely be the smallest in his class. Will he be teased? How will that affect him? One thing is certain, just as in Zacchaeus’s case, Jesus loves my son dearly. It doesn’t matter if our children aren’t “perfect” in the world’s eyes. They are in Jesus’ sight.

Share ways you are teaching your child about Jesus’ awesome love.

Week 5 (or optional)

When my firstborn was 8 months old, I distinctly remember one beautiful, warm May afternoon. We had walked to a playground. After swinging and playing a long time, we started for home. I carried him and sang “God Is So Wonderful.” He put his tired, sweaty head on my shoulder and fell asleep.

As I carried my precious son I thought, *Motherhood doesn’t get much better than this!* I was completely satisfied. I thank God for the moments I have with my children, sometimes rare in the frenzied pace of life, but filled with love and peace.

For what wonderful memories of time spent with your children do you thank God?

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about trees or another of God's gifts of love to us.

B. Peekaboo Basket

This basket includes hand towels and play objects (a block, ball, rattle, or toy stuffed animal). Parents hide an object under the towel. The children will enjoy playing peekaboo to find something that God has made, as the parent says this rhyme:

Let's see who
Finds a (name of object)
God made for you. (*Child picks up the object.*)
(Name) did! (*Parent hug child. Affirm child.*)

C. Rock-a-Bye, Baby

Provide dolls and blankets. The

children hold and rock their babies while singing to the tune "Rock-a-Bye, Baby."

Rock-a-bye, baby, Jesus is near.
While you are sleeping we will not fear.
Jesus is watching; He's always here.
Rock-a-bye, baby, Rock-a-bye, dear.

—Traditional. Adapted.

D. Climbing Blocks

See room decorations for the month. Set up climbing blocks near the tree so the children can feel that they are climbing like Zacchaeus. If you have a small slide available you may want to try that.

E. Measuring

Zacchaeus was a small man. During the month measure each of the children and mark their height on a growth chart taped to a wall. Tell each child that Jesus loves us no matter how big or small we are.

F. Counting

On the table outside the house (see Room Decorations) have stacks of large objects to count, different colors if possible, and containers. Let the children count the objects into different containers.

G. Rocking Chair

Have an adult-sized rocking chair available for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today.** Greet each child with a smile or handshake as you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 1).

Good morning, Good morning,
Good morning we say;
We're happy, so happy to see you
today!

—Janet Sage

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **I want to thank God for loving us all the time.** To prepare for prayer, sing "When It's Time to Pray" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 17).

When it's time to pray I bend my
knees,
Fold my hands, bow my head.
When It's time to pray I close my eyes,
and then I talk to Jesus.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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You Need:

☐ bells

Say: **Sabbath School is a special place. In Sabbath School we learn about being the kind of boys and girls Jesus wants us to be. Let's ring our bells to tell Jesus how happy we are for Sabbath School.**

Distribute bells for the children to ring as you sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 5).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer

Introduce the popcorn prayer to the parents and children. Ask the parents to take turns saying their children's names in random, spontaneous fashion. Begin the prayer by saying: Jesus, thank You for loving _____. The parents will "pop" out their child/children's names. When everyone has had a turn, close the prayer by saying: **Thank You for loving us all the time. Amen.**

Sing "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for ev'rything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor individually and then sing, "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ box or basket with heart shapes attached
- ☐ pictures or stickers of Jesus

Reinforce this month's message—Jesus loves me all the time—by adding heart shapes and pictures or stickers of Jesus to an offering container.

Say: **We learn about Jesus' love in Sabbath School. But some boys and girls don't know about**

Him. We bring our offering to help other boys and girls learn that Jesus loves them too. Sing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring on this Sabbath day.
Bless our gift, dear Jesus. May it help someone, we pray.

—Norma June Bell

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E. Birthdays

Say: **Someone here has had a birthday. Do you know who it is? Close your eyes and we'll find out.**

Lead the birthday child up front to a special birthday chair while you sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,
O who has had a birthday?
Come sit right here and we will sing,
To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles or coins
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Light the candle(s) or help the child drop the coin(s) into the artificial cake or other container while you sing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

Mary* has a birthday, we're so glad.
We will see how many she* has had.
As we count the money (candles) we are told [count]
Yes, the money says (candles say)
she's* two* years old.

*insert name, appropriate pronoun, and age of child.

Light the birthday candle(s) and then lead in singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but his is strong.

Chorus

Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so.

—Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School. Say a special birthday prayer thanking Jesus for the child.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard "Bibles"

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small felt or cardboard "Bibles" to the children. Ask: **What do you see in your Bible?** (Take responses.) **The Bible teaches us that Jesus loves us all the time. He helps us to do what is right. Our memory verse today tells us that God loves us. It says, "God is love." Say that with me. Let's sing our memory verse.** Sing the words to "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.
—Susan Davis. Adapted.

* Use the names of children in your class.

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B. Find the Money

You Need:

- ☐ large cutout coins (see p. 67)
- ☐ basket or large purse

Beforehand, make large cutouts of paper coins. Hide the "coins" throughout the room. Say: **Zacchaeus was a tax collector. That means his job was to collect money from other people. There is some money hidden in our Sabbath School room today. Can you help me find it?** Instruct the children to find the money and place it in the container. Sing the following words to the tune of "Here Is My Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 32).

Zacchaeus collected the money,
the money, the money;
Zacchaeus collected the money,
They gave their money to him.

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C. Jesus Comes to Town

Say: **One day Jesus came into the town where Zacchaeus lived. There were many people in the streets wanting to see Jesus. People were crowded all over. It was like a parade. Let's pretend we are there, wanting to see Jesus as we walk around the room.** Sing "Our Parade" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 41).

Let's walk together in our parade,
In our parade, in our parade.
Let's walk together in our parade,
Walk in our parade.

Second verse:
Let's clap together in our parade.
—Traditional.

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D. Climb a Tree

You Need:

- ☐ tree used in room decorations
- ☐ short stepladder (three steps)
- ☐ large picture or felt Jesus

Place a picture or a felt of Jesus behind the tree. Say: **All of you are little children. It is sometimes hard for you to see everything.** **Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was short, and he needed help, because there were so many taller**

people crowding around Jesus. Zacchaeus saw a tall tree and decided to climb up high so he could see Jesus.

Ask: **Would you like to climb up and see Jesus? Let's sing our song one time and do the motions together. Then you can take turns climbing the ladder to see Jesus.**

Have the children take turns climbing the steps or ladder and peek over to see the picture of Jesus as you sing "Zacchaeus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 63).

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, *Hands in front, right palm above left palm.*

A wee little man was he. *Bring palms closer.*

He climbed up in a sycamore tree, *Alternate hands in climbing motion.*

For the Lord he wanted to see. *Shade eyes with one hand; look down.*

And as the Savior passed that way, *Move one hand in front of you from left to right in bobbing motion*

He looked up in the tree, *Shade eyes with one hand; look up.*

[Spoken:]
**And He said:
"Zacchaeus, you
come down,**

*Look up, wag a
finger in admoni-
tion.*

**For I'm going
to your house
today,**

*Clap hands on
accented beat.*

**For I'm going
to your house
today."**

*Clap hands on
accented beat.*

—Unknown

Arrangement © 1943 Mrs. Newell Schaper.

Say: **Jesus loved Zacchaeus, and He loves you all the time. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing the following words to "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

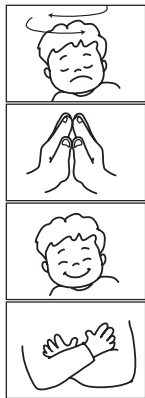
*Use the names of children in your class.

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E. Jesus Forgives

Say: **Zacchaeus saw Jesus! And Jesus saw Zacchaeus! When Jesus looked into Zacchaeus' face and smiled, Zacchaeus knew that Jesus loved him!**

Hooray for Jesus! Let's do the motions while we sing together about Jesus loving us. Sing "Jesus Smiles and Forgives" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 77).



**I did wrong,
that's too bad;**

*Shake head "no"
and frown.*

**I'll tell Jesus
I am sad.**

*Fold hands in
prayer.*

**He will smile
from above**

Smile.

**And forgive
in His love.**

*Place arms
crisscross over
heart.*

—Adriana Itin Femopase

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Say: **Jesus forgives you and loves you all the time. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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F. Dinner Guest

You Need:

- ☐ table and chair from room decorations
- ☐ plastic plates and cups
- ☐ snack* (optional)

Say: **When Jesus looked up in the tree and saw Zacchaeus, He said "Zacchaeus, you come down. I want to come and eat at your house."**

Zacchaeus loved Jesus, and he was excited to have Jesus come to his

house. You can come and sit at the table as we sing about Jesus visiting Zacchaeus.

Have the children come and sit at the table. If appropriate in your setting, offer a snack of fruit or crackers. Otherwise have the children pretend to eat. Sing the following words to "I Am Happy as Can Be!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 214).

I am happy as can be!
I am happy as can be
For Jesus came and ate some food
with me!

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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*Be aware of any food allergies and
adjust accordingly.

Say: **Jesus loves us all the time. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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Association.

G. Return the Money

You Need:

- ☐ large cutout coins (see p. 67)
- ☐ basket or large purse

Say: **Jesus loved Zacchaeus so much. And Zacchaeus loved Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to obey Jesus' rules and not cheat. He wanted to do good things. He told Jesus that he was sorry for all the bad things he had done. Jesus forgave him.**

Zacchaeus decided to give back any money that wasn't his. You can come and get some coins to give to someone else like Zacchaeus did.

Have the children take the large cut-out coins and give them to each other or their parents while you sing an adaptation of verse 7 of "I Give Myself to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 192).

I want to be like Jesus,
God's rules I will obey.
I want to be like Jesus,
And take just what is mine.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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Say: **Zacchaeus must have felt so happy. Jesus had forgiven him. Jesus had come to his house to eat. Jesus loved him!**

Let's sing about how happy Zacchaeus was, and how happy we are that Jesus loves us too. Sing "Always" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 128).

I may not be very tall,

Stand tall and stretch arms up over head.



But I can love Jesus best of all!

Crisscross arms across chest.



And when He comes on that happy day,

Point upward and smile.



Then I'll be with Him alway!

Crisscross arms across chest.



—Virginia Cason.

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Say: **Jesus loves us all the time. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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H. Jesus Loves Us

You Need:

- ☐ Jesus banners
- ☐ mirror
- ☐ children of the world felts or pictures

Say: **Jesus loved Zacchaeus and forgave him, even though Zacchaeus may not have been nice to other people. Jesus showed him that it is better when we are not mean, but are kind to others. Let's sing about how much Jesus loves us.** Wave Jesus banners on sticks and sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102).

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

—William B. Bradbury

Let's sing our memory verse song again. Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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Say: **Jesus loves us all of the time. Jesus loves each one of us so much. We are very special to Him. Let's look into the mirror and sing.**

As you come to each child place their name in the place of the "me, me, me." Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Ones" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 107).

Jesus loves the little ones like (name, name, name).

Jesus loves the little ones like (name, name, name).

Little ones like (name), sat upon His knee,

Jesus loves the little ones like (name, name, name).

—Sidney E. Cox. Adapted.

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Say: **Jesus loved Zacchaeus even when no one else did. Jesus was very happy that Zacchaeus learned to love Him. Jesus loves us too. He loves all the boys and girls no matter where they live. We should love all the boys and girls of the world, no matter if they look different, talk different, or wear different kinds of clothes than we do. Let's sing about Jesus loving all the children of the world.**

Distribute felts or pictures or finger puppets of children from different parts of the world, and let the children put them on a board. Sing the adapted words to "Jesus Loves the Children" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 106).

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Ev'ry color, ev'ry race, all are cover'd
by His grace,
All are precious in His sight—
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

—Words by Clare Herbert Woliston.

Say: **Jesus loves all the little children, and He loves you all the time. Let's sing our memory verse song again.** Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.
—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following as you review the lesson story.

Week 1

Tree

You Need:

- ☐ copies of tree outline (see p. 68)
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ cotton balls, pressed leaves, or green paper
- ☐ glue sticks

Beforehand, make copies of the tree outline (see p. 68). Have the children color in the trunk. Then they can glue either cotton balls, pressed leaves, or pieces of torn green paper inside the tree shape. Talk about how Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.

Week 3

Leaf Rubbing

In advance, collect large leaves with veins. Give each child a piece of paper. Help them make a leaf rubbing by placing a leaf under the paper and coloring over it, using a thick crayon. Talk about how Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.

You Need:

- ☐ large leaves with veins
- ☐ plain white paper
- ☐ thick crayons

Week 2

Jesus Loves You

You Need:

- ☐ copies of heart (see p. 69)
- ☐ glue sticks (optional)
- ☐ Jesus stickers or pictures of Jesus
- ☐ pencils

Beforehand, make copies of the heart pattern (see p. 69). Have the parents write their child's name in the blank and help the children place a sticker or glue a picture of Jesus in the middle of the heart. Talk about how much Jesus loves them. When finished, hold up their hearts while they sing the

memory verse song together.

Week 4

Coin Purse

Beforehand, cut out the paper "coins." Give each child an envelope to decorate with crayons or stickers. Give them each a few paper coins to put in their coin purse. Talk about how Zacchaeus collected tax money, about how he may have cheated, about how Jesus changed his heart, and about how he gave back more than he had taken from the people.

You Need:

- ☐ small envelopes
- ☐ "coins" printed on heavy gray paper (see p. 67)
- ☐ crayons or stickers

Week 5 (or optional activity) *Jesus Loves Me*

You Need:

- ☐ crayons
- ☐ markers
- ☐ copies of three-section card (see p. 70)

In advance, prepare photocopies of the three-section card with morning, afternoon, and night scenes (see p. 70).

Distribute the copies and crayons. Have the parents help the children color the three scenes, then fold the paper on the fold lines so it will stand alone. On the outside "front cover" have the parents write "Jesus loves (child's name) all the time."

As the children work, sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 102).

*Snack Center (Optional)

You Need:

- ☐ fruit pieces or snacks
- ☐ napkins
- ☐ baby wipes or damp paper towels

If you choose to have a snack time, keep it simple. Use "finger" foods and be sure to clean the children's hands afterward.

Provide small pieces of several different kinds of fruit or snacks. Invite the children to imagine that Zacchaeus has invited them home for a meal. Say: **Please taste your snack. Please taste your fruit.** Continue until they have an opportunity to sample each item.

Have the children use baby wipes or damp paper towels to clean their hands.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Say: **There are so many good things to eat. Who made all these good things for us to enjoy? Jesus did. Jesus loves me all the time.**

Let's sing our memory verse song again. Sing the following words to the tune of "Jesus Is Love" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 99). Point upward on "God."

Love, God is love;
Love, God is love.
God loves Bobby* and David* and
Susie*
Because God is love.

—Susan Davis. Adapted.

*Use the names of children in your class.

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Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **Jesus loved Zacchaeus. Jesus loves you all the time.** Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving all of us all the time. Amen.**

Sing together "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 46).

Our Sabbath School is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

Notes

STUDENT LESSON

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

References

Luke 19:1-10;
The Desire of Ages,
 pp. 552-556.

Memory Verse

"God is love"
 (1 John 4:8,
 NIV).

The Message

Jesus loves me
 all the time.

Kip cannot see into the nest. He will climb on the stool. Once a short man climbed high to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus is a short man. (*Point to Zacchaeus.*) He is not tall.

"I want Jesus to come to my house," Zacchaeus says. (*Point to Zacchaeus' house.*) "But sometimes I am not good. Maybe Jesus does not love me."

Will Jesus go home with Zacchaeus?

"Jesus is coming today," Zacchaeus says. (*Point to Zacchaeus.*) "I will go see Him." So Zacchaeus puts on his hat. (*Wrap a thin towel or scarf around child's head.*)

"Goodbye," Zacchaeus says. "I'm going to see Jesus."
 (*Wave goodbye; walk around the room.*)

"Jesus is coming!" the people shout.

"See Jesus!"
 (*Point to Jesus.*)

But Zacchaeus cannot see Jesus.
 (*Shake head; use sad voice.*) Zacchaeus is too short.

Zacchaeus stands on tiptoe. (*Stand on tiptoe; shade eyes.*) Zacchaeus still cannot see.

Climb, Zacchaeus, climb!
 (*Lift your child high in your arms.*) Climb up in the tree. (*Child stands on chair.*)

Look, Zacchaeus, look! What do you see? (*Point to objects in the picture and help the child name them.*)

Zacchaeus sees Jesus going by.

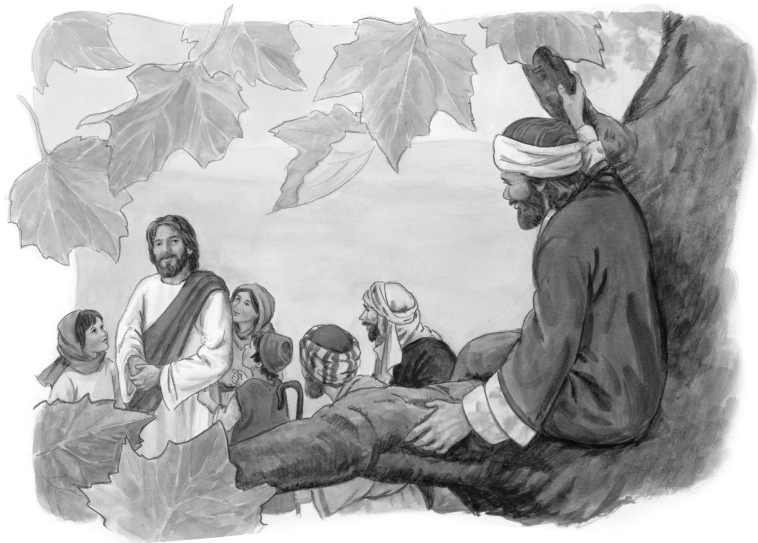
Walking, walking. (*Walk beside child standing on chair.*) Jesus is walking by.

Jesus stops. (*Stop walking.*) Jesus looks up in the tree. (*Look at child.*) "Hello, Zacchaeus." (*Touch your child's nose; make your child laugh.*)

Jesus smiles at Zacchaeus. (*Smile at child.*) Zacchaeus smiles back.

"Zacchaeus!" Jesus calls. "Come down! Come down! I am going to your house today."

(*Help child jump down.*) Yea for Zacchaeus! Jesus is going to his house.



(*Clap.*)

So Jesus goes to Zacchaeus's house. (*Point to Zacchaeus and Jesus.*) Jesus loves Zacchaeus.

Jesus loves you and me all the time too! (*Pick up your child and swing him or her high.*)

Do & Say

1. Talk about how Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see Jesus. Help your child climb stairs, a small tree, or onto a chair.

2. Go for a walk and look at the trees. Collect leaves from different trees. Put them between newspaper and place them under a weight to press them.

3. Visit a friend, just as Jesus visited Zacchaeus.

4. Help your child glue some leaves to a card and write "God Loves You" on it. Give the card to a family member or friend. Say together: God loves us all the time.

5. Find pictures of animals and their homes. Talk about God's love and care for animals. Say: God loves us all the time.

6. Ask your child: "What special food would you want to serve if Jesus were coming to our house?" Let your child help prepare and serve it for Sabbath dinner.

7. Tell your child to jump for joy as Zacchaeus did when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house. Sing "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man."

8. Zacchaeus was a small man. How many

small things can you and your child find in the room you are in? Count them together.

9. Help your child look in a mirror and make the kind of face Zacchaeus had when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house.

10. Let your child invite a friend to dinner. Have your child help set the table.

11. Make a leaf rubbing to share with a friend. Sing about Zacchaeus while you work.

12. Sing together "Jesus Loves Me." Insert your child's name. Say: God loves us all the time.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

13. Cut celery or something similar into two-inch (five-centimeter) sticks. Fill with peanut butter or a spread your child enjoys and put raisins on top. Serve them as a special treat for the rest of the family.

14. Help your child measure something tall and something small. Measure your child's height. Tall or small?

15. Help your child make "binoculars" by taping together two empty toilet paper rolls. Paint or decorate them. Use them to "look up" into trees.