



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus came for you.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Serves

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 19:1-10

What He has done: Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Here I am."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy, Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Jesus taught the crowd to forgive (show mercy).	To know we are blessed when we show mercy by forgiving others.
8	Jesus and Nicodemus John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus taught Nicodemus about salvation.	To know God loves the world.
9	Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 25-26, 28-30, 42	Jesus spoke to the woman at the well.	To tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To learn how to spend time with Jesus.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.	To know Jesus came for you.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 119:170-176. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord Jesus, for coming to seek and save the lost. Use us to help the children see the magnitude of this truth. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a tree
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Here I am."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "His One and Only Son" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "It's Praise Time!" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarment Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 11
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 19:1-10	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 19:5 Visual: Binoculars
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Zacchaeus in the Tree	Sturdy green and brown paper, standard white paper, markers or crayons, tape
		Game: Here I Am!	None
		Game: Jesus Seeks	Ball
		Snack: Zacchaeus' Fig Treat	Figs or fig bars
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 11 Color This Story: "Jesus Came for Zacchaeus"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 19:1-10	None
	Up to 10	Game: Circle of Love	None
	Up to 10	Game: How Big is Jesus' Love?	One large sheet, cloth, or tarp
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about how Jesus came for each of us

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Here I am

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a tree. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a tree help you remember Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus over the crowd. While Zacchaeus was in the tree, Jesus called his name. Zacchaeus answered Jesus by saying, "Here I am." Today's Whisper Verse is "Here I am."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Here I am."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Here" With both palms facing up, rotate the arms inward in sweeping motions.

"I (am)." Point to self.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Here I am," Genesis 22:11. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who serves. That means He gives us what we need. He came from heaven to find us and give us life forever. He knows our names and He loves each one of us. His love is the widest (all spread arms) **and the longest** (all reach arms forward) **and the highest** (all reach high) **and the deepest** (all squat down low) **love in the whole wide world. Let's do those motions as we sing about His wide, long, high, deep love.** Sing: Bible Memory Verse Song "How Wide?" with motions.

One way we can show Jesus we love Him is to give our offering of money to help serve others. Sing: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" while collecting the offering.

Jesus came for Zacchaeus and He came for each one of you. Jesus is in heaven now. When we say, "Here I am," He hears us! That's today's Whisper Verse: "Here I am." Review Whisper Verse together: "Here I am." Include sign language.



Let's visit with our friends Delbert and Lello to see if they have heard the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read the storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 11.



Zacchaeus was very short. God made him that way on purpose. God made each of us in a special and different way. He loves each one of us. He came to save everyone who believes in Him. Sing: "Everyone Who Calls."



Jesus came for Zacchaeus

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Jesus wanted Martha to “be still” and spend time with Him. Today, we will hear how Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down out of a fig tree. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 19:5.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 19:1-10

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold binoculars. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or a related picture.

- Zacchaeus lived in Jericho;
- He was rich and very short.
- When he heard Jesus was coming,
- He wanted to see the Lord.

- He had to climb up in a tree,
- To see above the crowd.
- Then Lord Jesus called his name,
- “Zacchaeus, you come down.

- I’m staying at your house today.”
- Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.
- Jesus had come for Zacchaeus,
- And He came for you and me.



What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do? (Come down.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.

Read Luke 19:5 from the teacher's Bible.

Just as He came for Zacchaeus, Jesus came for us. What can we say to Jesus? (“Here I am.”) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: “Here I am.” Include sign language or hand motions.



Jesus came for us

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: ZACCHAEUS IN THE TREE

Purpose: For children to make Zacchaeus in the tree as a reminder to present themselves to Jesus.

Supplies: Sturdy green and brown paper, standard white paper, markers or crayons, tape

Prepare:

1. Cut out an outline of Zacchaeus. From the green paper, cut out the outline of a treetop. Print: **"Here I am." Genesis 22:11**
2. From the brown paper, cut out the outline of a tree trunk. At the bottom, print: **"Jesus and Zacchaeus." Luke 19:1-10**
3. Cut a slit lengthwise on the tree trunk.
4. From the brown paper, cut out a 1"x3" rectangle tab to tape to the back of Zacchaeus. Crease the tab in half on its width.

Directions:

1. Color Zacchaeus.
2. Tape half of the tab to the back of Zacchaeus, leaving the other half loose to be a small handle.
3. Glue the green tree top to the brown trunk.
4. Help children slide the handle part of the tab through the slit in the trunk.
5. Show the children how to grasp the tab from the back of the tree trunk to make Zacchaeus climb up and down the tree.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Here I am.") **Let's say it right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.
- **Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. Why couldn't he see Jesus?** (He was too short.)
- **What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?** (A tree.)
- **Who looked for Zacchaeus in the tree?** (Jesus.)
- **Let's pretend Jesus is calling for Zacchaeus to come out of the tree. Have Zacchaeus climb down as he says "Here I am."**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: HERE I AM!

Purpose: Children will play a game in which they will practice responding "Here I am" to Jesus.

Supplies: None

Jesus came to see Zacchaeus. He looked up and called to Zacchaeus in the tree. Imagine what it would be like to have Jesus call your name! When I call your name, jump as high as you can, look up toward Jesus in heaven and shout "Here I am!"

Directions:

1. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor.
2. Call out each child's name in random order.
3. Have the children jump high and shout "Here I am!" when they hear their name.

GAME: JESUS SEEKS

Purpose: Children will understand that Jesus is seeking each one of them.

Supplies: One ball

Jesus looked for Zacchaeus. Where did Jesus see Zacchaeus? (In a tree.) Jesus seeks to find you, too. That means Jesus looks for you.

Directions:

1. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor.
2. Give the ball to one of the children.
3. As they roll the ball to another child, lead them in saying **Jesus came to seek name of child**.
4. Lead all the children in saying **Jesus loves name of child**.
5. Child rolls the ball to another child. Repeat steps 3-4.
6. Continue playing until all of the children have had a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: ZACCHAEUS' FIG TREAT

Purpose: Children enjoy a fig snack and discuss what they would say if they met Jesus.

Snack Suggestion: Figs or fig bars

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Jesus looked for Zacchaeus. Where did He find Zacchaeus?** (In a tree.)
 - **Zacchaeus climbed a special kind of tree called a fig tree. We are eating a special fig treat to remind us of the tree Zacchaeus climbed to see Jesus!**
 - **Jesus looked for Zacchaeus because He wanted to go to his house. What would you say to Jesus if He wanted to go home with you?** (Children respond.)
 - **Just as Jesus came for Zacchaeus, He came for you. What can you say to Jesus?** Lead children in saying the Whisper Verse with the motions: **"Here I am."**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Thank you for coming today! Take home your "Zacchaeus in the Tree" craft. Show your family how Zacchaeus came down the tree when Jesus called his name!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jesus came for Zacchaeus and for you!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus came for Zacchaeus." Discuss Bible story and play Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse song "How Wide?" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 19:1-10

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Zacchaeus lived in Jericho;** (Hands on hips.)
- **He was rich and very short.** (Bend knees to be shorter.)
- **When he heard Jesus was coming,** (Cup hand at ear.)
- **He wanted to see the Lord.** (Use fists as binoculars.)

- **He had to climb up in a tree,** (Pretend to climb a tree.)
- **To see above the crowd.** (Stand on tip toes.)
- **Then Lord Jesus called his name,** (Cup hands at mouth to call.)
- **“Zacchaeus, you come down.** (Point to ground.)

- **I’m staying at your house today.”** (Point as if pointing to a person.)
- **Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.** (Pretend to climb down.)
- **Jesus had come for Zacchaeus,** (Point to heaven.)
- **And He came for you and me.** (Point to someone and then to self.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?” Ephesians 3:18

“His love endures forever.” Psalm 100:5

GAME: CIRCLE OF LOVE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Can you show me how big Jesus’ love is? Encourage children to stretch their arms wide to show the size of Jesus’ love. **Let’s review our Bible Memory Verse. Our verse tells us how big Jesus’ love is!**

Directions:

1. Form a circle and hold hands.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together while doing the corresponding actions:

“How wide and long	Stretch circle outward.
and high	Hold each other’s hands high to sky.
and deep	Hold each other’s hands low to ground.
is the love of Christ.”	Let go of hands and hug arms over chest.
“His love endures forever.”	Hold hands again and walk in a circle.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: HOW BIG IS JESUS' LOVE?

Purpose: Children move a sheet to discover the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: One large sheet, cloth, or tarp

Jesus loves all children. That means He loves you! Let's see how big Jesus' love is.

Directions:

1. Spread the sheet on the floor in the center of the room.
2. Children stand in a square around the sheet.
3. Children pick up the sheet by the edges.
4. **Pull on the sheet until it is tight. See how wide and long the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even wider and longer!**
5. **Take one giant step into the square. Hold the sheet as high as you can reach. See how high the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even higher!**
6. **Now let's lower the sheet to the ground. See how low the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even deeper!**
7. **Move into the middle and squeeze together tight; as close as you can. Jesus will be close to you forever. He will love you forever!**



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about how Jesus came for each of us.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 11: Jesus and Zacchaeus

PONDER! Read Luke 19:1-10 with your family. Talk about how Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree, He told him to come down so He could visit his house. Jesus came for Zacchaeus. Jesus came for you, too!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for coming to earth for me and seeking me. Here I am, Lord. I want to spend time with You. Amen."

PLAY! Show your family the sign language for the Whisper Verse, "Here I am." Have your family say: "Jesus is seeking name of family member." That family member stands up to say and sign, "Here I am." Make sure everyone in your family gets a turn to say "Here I am" to Jesus.

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5