



# Jesus and Zacchaeus

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Serves

## THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 19:1-10

What He has done: Jesus sought Zacchaeus and went to his home.

Key Verse: Luke 19:10

## THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 119:176

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

"'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 16:24, 4:19

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12	Jesus taught the crowds about God's blessings.	To know the blessings of the heart God provides for those in His kingdom.
8	Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus answers Nicodemus' questions about salvation.	To consider personal salvation and discover the meaning of being born again.
9	Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 10-11, 13-14, 25-26, 28-30, 41-42	Jesus spoke with the woman at the well about eternal life and His identity.	To tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To give priority to spending time with Jesus.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus sought Zacchaeus and went to his home.	To know Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

## 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	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Hide and Seek the Sweets	Bag of candy
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Follow Me" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Search Me, O God" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestion:</b> "I Want to Know You" "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 15:7	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 11 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Luke 19:1-10	Map—Jericho, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Psalm 119:176	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—New Leaf (See directions in Game: Turn Over a New Leaf), Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Follow Me," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Zacchaeus' Figs	Fig bar cookies
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Turn Over a New Leaf Relay	Sturdy, light green paper; crayons or markers; optional: sturdy, brown paper; two step stools
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Seek and Save Verse Tree	Sturdy, green and brown paper; crayons or markers; scissors; glue; red or yellow tissue paper or puff paint
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Come, Follow Me	Sturdy paper, a marker, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> The Wave	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.  
**Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite thing to climb?**

### **GAME: HIDE AND SEEK THE SWEETS**

**Purpose:** This game will introduce children to the idea that Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

**Supplies:** Bag of candy

**Directions:**

1. Show the bag of candy to the children. Tell them it is the sweet treasure they will be seeking.
2. Choose two children to be the Hiders. The rest of the children will be the Seekers.
3. Tell the Seekers to cover their eyes.
4. Tell the Hiders to quietly hide the bag of candy.
5. After the candy is hidden and the Hiders have returned to their seats, tell the Seekers to open their eyes and hunt for the candy.
6. Whoever finds the candy gets to be the next Hider. They choose a partner to help.
7. Play as many rounds as you have time to play.
8. When the game is over, share the candy with everyone.

**Why did you want to find the candy? (Children respond.) You were willing to seek the lost candy so you could enjoy some of it. Today, we will discover how Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Just as we seek to find things that are special to us, Jesus came to seek us because we are special to Him. In today's Bible Story, Jesus looked for a man named Zacchaeus who no one liked. Let's find out what happened.**



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 music as children move to the designated area.

### The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

**Today, we worship the King who serves. That means He gives us what we need. Jesus knows we need to be close with God because without God, we are lost. Jesus came to seek and save the lost by making a way for us to be forgiven and close to God forever. He knows our names and He invites each one of us to follow Him, just as He invited Zacchaeus.**



Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Follow Me" as the offering is collected. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on salvation and repentance.



**One way we can deny ourselves and follow Him is by giving our offering of money to help serve others. Another way is to repent—to turn from doing things our own way and start doing things His way. As we worship Him, let's ask God to help us do that. When one of us repents, there is a great celebration in heaven.** Read Luke 15:7. **Imagine what it is like in heaven when you choose to repent.**



Sing celebratory songs of repentance and commitment such as "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus."



Perform Kingdom Adventures script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 11.



Jesus seeks and saves Zacchaeus

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we heard about Jesus' visit to the home of Mary and Martha in Bethany. Mary sat and listened to Jesus while Martha worried about getting everything ready. Who did Jesus say made the better choice? (Mary.) Today, we will hear how Jesus came to stay at the home of Zacchaeus (pronounced zak-ee-us) in Jericho. If a map is available, point to Jericho.**



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 19:1-10.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**Zacchaeus was a tax collector. In those times, tax collectors unfairly took people's money. The people looked down on Zacchaeus and called him a sinner; someone who has done wrong in God's eyes. Let's read from the Bible to see what happened when Zacchaeus met Jesus.** Read Luke 19:1-10.



Jesus came to seek and save us

## THE WAY

**Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?** (To see Jesus over the crowd.) **If Jesus came to your street, how would you see over the crowd?** (Children respond.) **What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus as He called to him in the tree?** (“Come down, immediately. I must stay at your house today.”) **What did Zacchaeus do when Jesus called to him?** (He came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly.) **How would you feel if Jesus called your name and said He was coming to your home today?** (Children respond.)

**The people called Zacchaeus a sinner because as a tax collector he cheated people out of their money. What does it mean to be a sinner?** (A sinner is one who sins. To sin is to do wrong in God’s eyes.) **Was Zacchaeus the only sinner in the crowd?** (No, everyone is a sinner.)

**After meeting Jesus, how did Zacchaeus change?** (He gave half his money to the poor and paid back four times the amount he had taken by cheating.) **That’s what the Bible calls “repenting.” It’s turning away from doing something wrong in God’s eyes (sinning) and choosing to do things God’s way instead. Repenting is what Jesus was talking about in our Bible Memory Verse when He said, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.” To deny yourself is to say “no” to doing things your way when it is not God’s way. How did Zacchaeus deny himself?** (He gave half his money to the poor and repaid those he cheated.)

**When we repent and follow Jesus, He forgives us of our sins. He saves us from God’s punishment for our sins. Jesus calls all who need to be saved from their sins, “the lost.” Until we decide to repent and follow Jesus, we are all like lost sheep that have wandered away from their shepherd. Jesus, our Lord, is our shepherd. Those who are following Jesus are like found sheep that are now saved because they are walking with their shepherd.**

If time allows, play GAME: TURN OVER A NEW LEAF located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Jesus is called the Son of Man. Jesus told Zacchaeus the reason He came to earth as the Son of Man. Who did the Son of Man (Jesus) come to seek and save?** (The lost.)

**To “seek” means to search for something or someone. Since we can’t find our own way to God, Jesus came searching for us to forgive our sins and make a way for any who would follow Him to live forever close with God. Let’s see how this prayer from the Old Testament asks God to do that.**



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 119:176. Let’s find this verse. Read Psalm 119:176.**

**How are those who don't follow Jesus like lost sheep that have wandered away from their shepherd?** (Children respond.) **How is Jesus like a shepherd searching for lost sheep to save?** (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is your New Leaf with our Bible Memory Verse printed on it. Keep it in a special place to remind you to deny yourself and make godly choices. Show it to your family and tell them why Zacchaeus climbed the sycamore fig tree.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 11 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus calling to Zacchaeus in the tree. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: ZACCHAEUS' FIGS**

**Purpose:** Connect with your students while enjoying a snack to remember the tree Zacchaeus was in when Jesus found him.

**Snack Suggestion:** Fig bar cookies

**Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus in the crowd, so he climbed a tree. Do you know what type of tree Zacchaeus was in? (Sycamore fig tree.) Let's eat a cookie made from the fruit of that tree: figs.**

**Directions:**

1. Give each child a snack and drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the children to answer the Snack Discussion Question: **"How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called Him by name?"**

### **GAME: TURN OVER A NEW LEAF RELAY**

**Purpose:** Children review the meaning of denying oneself as Zacchaeus did.

**Supplies:** Sturdy, light green paper; crayons or markers; optional: sturdy, brown paper; two step stools

**Prepare:** Cut a 5-inch x 3-inch leaf shape from sturdy, light green paper. On the top of one side of each New Leaf print: **"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." Mathew 16:24**

**Optional:** Create a sycamore fig tree by cutting a trunk and branches from sturdy, brown paper. Attach tree to the wall. Use paper clips to attach New Leaves to the branches. Place a small step stool for each team in front of the tree. Have students step on the step stool "climb the tree" for their leaf.

**The phrase "turn over a new leaf" is a 400-year-old saying that means to make a change in your life story, just like you turn over a new page in a book. Long ago, pages of a book were called leaves because they were actually made from leaves. Today, we are going to use a paper leaf to represent a leaf from Zacchaeus' sycamore fig tree. It will help us remember to "turn over a new leaf" like Zacchaeus did, deny ourselves, and follow Jesus.**

**Directions:**

1. Divide class in two teams. Line up teams at one end of the playing area.
2. At opposite end of playing area, place a pile of New Leaves (one for each player).
3. When you say "Go," the first person on each team runs to the pile and grabs a leaf. They run back to their team and tag the next person in line.
4. The team whose players collect their leaves first, wins.

**Before he met Jesus, Zacchaeus treated others unfairly by cheating them out of their money. What are some ways children your age treat others unfairly? (Not sharing, being mean, lying, taking something that belongs to someone else, hurting others, teasing, bullying, etc.)**

Have a volunteer read the verse on the leaf. **To deny yourself is to say "no" to doing things your way when it is not God's way. What are some ways we could turn over a new leaf and do things God's way? (Be kind, share, tell the truth, ask for forgiveness, etc.) Each time you see your New Leaf, remember the story of Zacchaeus and remember Jesus wants us to "turn over a new leaf," deny ourselves, and follow Jesus.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: SEEK AND SAVE VERSE TREE**

**Purpose:** For children to make a tree to help them remember Jesus came for the lost.

**Supplies:** Sturdy, green and brown paper; crayons or markers; scissors; glue; red or yellow tissue paper or puff paint

**Prepare:** Write and display where the children can copy:

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10**

You may also choose to create a tracing template for the treetop and trunk.

**Who did Jesus seek in the Bible Story?** (Zacchaeus.) **Where did Jesus find Zacchaeus?** (In a sycamore fig tree.) **What did other people think of Zacchaeus?** (People looked down on Zacchaeus and said he was a sinner because as a tax collector, he unfairly took their money.) **A sinner is someone who has done wrong in God’s eyes. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. What makes us lost?** (Our sins keep us separated from God.) **Jesus came to forgive us for our sins and make a way for all of us to live forever close with God. Jesus came to seek everyone, no matter how badly or how often we have sinned. Let’s make a sycamore fig tree to remind us Jesus came for everyone who has ever sinned. Let’s write the words to Luke 19:10 on our trees to help us remember Jesus said He came to seek and save the lost.**

### **Directions:**

1. Cut out the shape of the top of a tree from the green paper.
2. Cut out the tree trunk from the brown paper.
3. Glue the treetop and trunk together to form a tree.
4. Copy the words of Luke 19:10 onto your tree.
5. Decorate your tree with “sycamore figs” by using puff paint or by gluing small balls of red or yellow tissue paper to your tree.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."  
"Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 16:24; 4:19

### **GAME: COME, FOLLOW ME**

**Purpose:** Children step on footprints to learn the words and meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.  
**Supplies:** Sturdy paper, a marker, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster  
**Prepare:** Cut 31 footprint shapes from sturdy paper. Write one word of the Bible Memory Verse on each footprint. Display the poster where the children can see it.

Shuffle the footprints as you ask the following questions:

**Who should we follow?** (Jesus.) **Jesus says we must do some things to follow Him. What does He want us to do?** (Deny yourself and take up your cross.) **This means following Jesus is not easy. Denying ourselves means not being selfish. Taking up our cross means following Jesus even when it's hard or we don't want to. When might serving Jesus be hard?** (When others make fun of us, when it's more fun to make fun of someone instead of help them, when we should stand up for what is right when everyone else likes the wrong way.)

**What does Jesus say He will do for us?** (Make us fishers of men.) **What is a "fisher of men?"** (Someone who helps others learn about and follow Jesus.) **If we follow Jesus with all of our hearts by obeying and serving Him no matter what, He will lead us to help others follow Him, too.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Distribute the footprints as evenly as possible among the children.
3. On your signal, children race to place the footprints on the floor in the correct order.

**Teacher Tip:** For a more competitive version of this game, divide the children into two teams. Time the first team as they place the 31 footprints in order. Then have the second team race to see which team is the fastest at placing the footprints in the correct order.

### **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24; 4:19.

**Supplies:** Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 16:24; 4:19 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to the thighs and then sit down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus (Circa 0-33 A.D.) beginning with the only story of His childhood and then focusing on His relationships, His ministry, His teachings, and the events surrounding His death, resurrection, and ascension. It concludes with a study of His kingdom parables. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Jesus and the Woman at the Well (Circa 30 A.D.)** **Who did Jesus meet at the well?** (A Samaritan woman.) **What did He ask her for?** (A drink of water.) **What did Jesus mean when He said He gives living water?** (Living water stands for eternal life. Jesus gives life forever close with God.) **What did the woman do after she talked with Jesus?** (She put down her water jug to go tell everyone to come and see Jesus.)

**Jesus with Mary and Martha (Circa 30 A.D.)** **What did Mary do when Jesus came to her home?** (Sat at His feet and listened.) **What was distracting Martha?** (All the preparations for Jesus' visit.) **Did Jesus tell Mary to go help Martha?** (No. He said Mary's choice was the better one and it would not be taken from her.)

**Jesus and Zacchaeus (Circa 30 A.D.)** **What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus as He called to him in the tree?** ("Come down, immediately. I must stay at your house today.") **After meeting Jesus, how did Zacchaeus change?** (He gave half his money to the poor and He paid back four times the amount he had taken by cheating.) **According to Jesus, whom did He come to seek and save?** (The lost.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Life of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Life of Jesus: Jesus and His Father's House > Jesus Is Baptized > Jesus Is Tempted > Jesus Calls His Disciples > Jesus Clears the Temple > Jesus Is Transfigured > Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes > Jesus and Nicodemus > Jesus and the Woman at the Well > Jesus with Mary and Martha > Jesus and Zacchaeus > Jesus Is Anointed > The Triumphal Entry > Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet > Jesus and the Last Supper > Jesus in the Garden > Jesus and the Cross > Jesus Is Risen > The Road to Emmaus > Jesus Talks with Peter > The Great Commission > The King Ascends

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan