

MD KIDS Preschool CURRICULUM

Week 21: Zacchaeus Gets Found (from Luke 19:1-10)

To the Teacher: Though a familiar kids story, this is actually a true story of a man who was lost and shunned from society, being accepted and loved by Jesus. Pray we as a church find joy in that news!

Big Idea and Missio Basic: Jesus came to seek out and save those who are lost.

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Coloring Page or activity: Have the kids color a picture of Zacchaeus and the crowd or complete the Jesus meets Zacchaeus activity sheet.
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. Play a game of 'hide and seek'. Talk about how Jesus knew exactly where Zacchaeus was and called him by name. While we think we are hiding, Jesus knows exactly where we are at and wants to be with us.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Welcome, [Name]

Welcome, [Name]

Hear God's Word

Hear God's Word

We can trust in Jesus.

We can trust in Jesus.

Welcome, friends.

Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: (*touch your nose for 'smell', your ears for 'hear', etc.*)

*God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

Discussion to introduce the Story:

Have you ever been lost? How did that make you feel? OR
Have you ever heard a story about someone who got lost and couldn't find their way back home? Today we are going to learn about a man who was lost because he couldn't see past all of his money.□

Story: from Luke 19:1-10

Movie: Play this short video clip for the kiddos.

<https://youtu.be/5BjtbJFz2ug>

Or

READ:

"The Man Who Didn't Have Any Friends (None)" from The Jesus Storybook Bible page 264

Or you can read the passage below:

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

***You see, Zacchaeus’s heart was no longer lost. His heart had been found by Jesus. Jesus saw through all of the money, the big house, fancy clothes, and fancy camels and found his heart. Jesus knew all of those things were not making Zacchaeus happy. Jesus was the only thing that brought Zacchaeus true joy.**

Snack Time: Let’s take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today’s snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today’s snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity: **For kids to do during the week**

Listen: Ask the Spirit this week what things are getting in the way of you seeing Jesus. Ask him to help you remove those so you can see Jesus more clearly and find joy in him! Sit and listen for the Spirit to respond.

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool class playground time does not start until 12PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your word, The Bible.

Thank you for sending Jesus in a real body so we can know you.

Help us to trust that your word is true.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.