

February Week 3

**Backyard
Food Trucks**

Feb 18

CRAFT

Zacchaeus in the tree

SUPPLIES: Tree picture, Zacchaeus cut out, yarn, tape, crayons

SET-UP: Tape yarn to the back of Zacchaeus. Slip yarn through the hole punch and secure with a piece of tape near top of the page.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children take a seat. Review the story and pass out tree page. Pass out crayons.**

- *"Today in our Bible story we learned about a man who had made some bad choices. Do you remember what his name was? Zacchaeus! Can you say that with me? Zacchaeus!"*
- *Now Zacchaeus wasn't very tall and so when Jesus was passing by, do you remember what he did? He climbed up in a tree! Let's start by coloring the tree!*
- *Nice job! Now can you color Zacchaeus?*
- *That looks great! And now let's color Jesus at the bottom of the tree!"*

⇒ **Demonstrate how to move Zacchaeus up into the tree by pulling on the yarn.**

- *"Zacchaeus climbed up the tree so that he could get a better view of Jesus! Can you pull on your yarn and help Zacchaeus climb up the tree to the top? Great job!"*
- *But when Jesus came by, he told Zacchaeus to come down. Let's move Zacchaeus down the tree to stand next to Jesus! He knew that Zacchaeus had made some bad choices but he loved him anyway! Jesus loves everyone! He told Zacchaeus that he wanted to come to his house! And when Zacchaeus realized that Jesus loved him, he decided to pay back all the money he had taken from people. Wow!"*

⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"These look great, friends! I want you to use this craft to retell this story to your family when you get home. And don't forget to tell them that Jesus loves everyone!"*
- ***Who loves everyone? Jesus loves everyone!"***

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ACTIVITY #1

Good choice, Bad choice

SUPPLIES: None

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“Today in our Bible story, we learned about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus didn’t always make the best choices. Friends, have you ever made a bad choice? I know I have. I am so thankful that Jesus loves us no matter what choices we make!”*
- *Boys and girls, we are going to play a game to help us decide which choices are good ones that we can make.?*

⇒ **Demonstrate how to stand up or sit down for each choice.**

- *“I will call out a choice. Some are good and some are bad. If it’s a good choice I want you to stand up. If it’s a bad choice, I want you to sit down. Are you ready? Let’s play!”*

⇒ **Call out choices at random and have children sit or stand.**

- **Good Choices:**
 - *You listened to your mom.*
 - *You helped in the kitchen.*
 - *You played with your baby brother.*
 - *You let your friend go first.*
 - *You used kind words.*
 - *You called your grandma to say hi.*
- **Bad Choices:**
 - *You used unkind words.*
 - *You made a mess and didn’t clean it up.*
 - *You ate a cookie without asking permission.*
 - *You pushed your brother.*
 - *You took a toy from another friend.*
 - *You pitched a big fit when your mom said it was time for bed.*

⇒ **Complete the activity and Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *Great listening, friends. We all make good choices and bad choices. Just like Zacchaeus from our Bible story, sometimes we make bad choices that we know are wrong. But Jesus still loved Zacchaeus. That’s because Jesus loves everyone!*
- **Who does Jesus love?**
- **Jesus loves everyone!”**

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ACTIVITY #2

Pass the Heart

SUPPLIES:

Squishy or Plush heart, CD player, worship music cd

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children sit in a circle in the middle of the room.**

- *“In our true Bible story today, we heard about how Jesus LOVES us! I have a heart here to help remind us of Jesus’ love. We are going to play some music and pass the heart around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the heart will say our memory verse!”*

⇒ **Play music and pass the heart around. Pause music. Have the child holding the heart say the memory verse.**

- *“It’s your turn to say the memory verse – we can help you!”*
 - *“Be kind and loving to each other.”**Ephesians 4:32*

⇒ **Let the children play until every child has had a turn.**

⇒ **Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“Wow, boys and girls! Jesus loves every single one of you so very much! Jesus loves EVERYONE!”*
- ***Who does Jesus love?***
- ***Jesus loves everyone!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Heart Parachute

SUPPLIES: Parachute, heart stress balls, CD player, worship music

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you around the parachute.**
 - *“Friends, let’s have some fun together! This month we have been learning about how much Jesus loves us. This makes me want to celebrate! We can have fun by putting these hearts on the parachute and bouncing them HIGH!”*
- ⇒ **Turn the music on and have children join you in bouncing the parachute: High, low, fast, slow, etc. Each time all the hearts bounce off, ask...**
 - *“Who does Jesus love?”*
 - *“Jesus loves EVERYONE!”*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“Awesome job, friends! That was fun! We can celebrate because Jesus loves EVERYONE!”*
 - ***Who does Jesus love?***
 - ***Jesus loves everyone!”***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY FEBRUARY WEEK 3

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *The Beginner Bible: p. 413, "A Short Man"*

REVIEW *(You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - ***Who does Jesus love?***
 - ***Jesus loves everyone!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - ***"Be kind and loving to each other."***
Ephesians 4:32

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "Since Jesus loves everyone even when we do something wrong, today we'll make a list of wrong things we have done. Everyone has done wrong things, but Jesus loves everyone, anyway! When I say your name, **tell me one thing you have done wrong**, and I will write it down. Maybe you didn't share or you got angry and yelled or you didn't obey your parents. Whatever it is, we can use our list when we pray to thank God for sending Jesus to love us, no matter what
 - *Have each child share and write the ideas down on the board/paper.*
- ⇒ "Thank you for this great list! Let's pray and thank Jesus for loving us no matter what!"
- ⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us, even when we do something wrong. When we've done things like (read the list you and the children made), Jesus still loves us. Help us remember that Jesus loves everyone so we can love everyone, too. In Jesus' name, amen."*