

January Week 4
2s
Rain or Shine
January 25-26

CRAFT WEEK 4

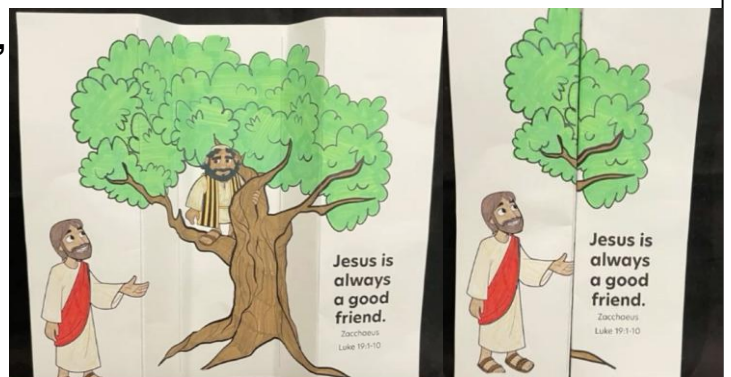
Zacchaeus & the Folding Tree

SUPPLIES: Story page, crayons

SET-UP: Pre-fold the page back on the two outer lines and fold in toward the middle on the two inner lines so the two outer lines meet in the middle.

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child a story page and set out the crayons.**
- *"Friends, come sit at the table. We're going to make a craft to remind us of our story today. Who do you see on this picture? (Pause.) Yes, there's Zacchaeus in the tree! Zacchaeus was a tax collector and collected money from people. But he took money that wasn't his! That's not good! Who else do you see? (Pause.) Yup, there's Jesus! Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and wanted to be his friend. Let's color our page."*
- ⇒ **Show the children how to fold the page so that Zacchaeus is hidden and then pull the page apart to reveal Zacchaeus in the tree.**
- *"Lots of people might not have seen Zacchaeus hiding up in the tree. Do you feel where there are fold marks on you paper? Let's fold our paper up so that we can't see Zacchaeus. (Demonstrate.)"*
- ⇒ **Review the Bible Story and bring it Back to the Bottom Line**
- *"Let's review our Bible Story using our picture. Start with Zacchaeus hiding."*
 - *"One day, Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived, and everyone was happy—even Zacchaeus! Everyone went to see Jesus, but Zacchaeus couldn't see over the crowd. So Zacchaeus climbed up a tree! Unfold your papers and show me Zacchaeus in the tree. (Pause.) Who else saw Zacchaeus in the tree? (Pause.) That's right! Jesus saw Zacchaeus and told him to come down because He was going to Zacchaeus' house! Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. So, he gave all the money back that he had taken from people!"*
 - *"Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend!**"*
 - *"Who is always a good friend?"*
 - *"Jesus is always a good friend!"*



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ACTIVITY #1

Happy Faces

SUPPLIES: None

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather the children.**

- *“Friends, come to the carpet and sit with me! We’re going to talk about your Bible story today. In our story, Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus was his friend.”*

⇒ **Review the story and encourage children to stand up and smile whenever the word “happy” comes up in the story.**

- *“As I talk through our story, every time I say the word HAPPY, I want you to stand up and give me a big smile. Let’s practice. Jesus makes me HAPPY (stand up and smile.) Great job! Now sit down and let’s tell the story.*
- *“Our story was about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. People did not like him because he took money that wasn’t his. One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town. Zacchaeus was so HAPPY (stand up and smile) that he climbed a tree so he could see Jesus! Jesus went to the tree Zacchaeus was in and told him to come down because He wanted to go to Zacchaeus’ house! Wow! Zacchaeus was so HAPPY (stand up and smile) Jesus wanted to go to his house, that he quickly climbed down the tree! Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus at his house. This made Zacchaeus very HAPPY! (Stand up and smile.) Zacchaeus went and gave back all the money he took. This made lots of people very HAPPY!” (Stand up and smile.)*

⇒ **Bring it back to the Bottom Line.**

- *“Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus when Zacchaeus was HAPPY. (Stand up and smile.) Zacchaeus learned how to be a good friend by spending time with Jesus, and we can learn how to be a good friend when we look at Jesus. Just like Zacchaeus, when we are HAPPY (stand up and smile) Jesus is a good friend to us, because Jesus is always a good friend.*
- ***Who is always a good friend?***
- ***Jesus is always a good friend!”***

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ACTIVITY #2

Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES: CD Player, EC Worship CD

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children join you in the center of the room and space out.**
 - *“Friends, we know that Jesus is always a good friend. He’s a good friend when we’re afraid, when we’re excited, when we’re sad, and when we’re happy. You know what I like to do when I’m happy? Dance! I am going to turn on a song and when you hear the music, I want you to DANCE! When the music stops, everyone FREEZE! Let’s practice freezing right now. FREEZE!”*
 - *Great job! Are you ready to play? Let’s go!”*
- ⇒ **Play music and let kids dance. Pause music and have them freeze.**
 - *“FREEZE!”*
 - ***Who is always a good friend?***
 - ***Jesus is always a good friend!***
 - *Let’s dance!”*
- ⇒ **Repeat as long as children are interested.**
- ⇒ **Complete the activity and then bring it back to the bottom line.**
 - *“Great dancing, everyone!”*
 - ***Who is always a good friend?***
 - ***Jesus is always a good friend!”***

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READ, REVIEW, CONNECT IT, & PRAY
JANUARY WEEK 4

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

READ A STORY – Keep all month

- *Jesus & His Friends*

ASK A QUESTION

Who is always a good friend?

Jesus is always a good friend!

PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE

“A friend loves you all the time.” Proverbs 17:17

SAY A PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for making me.

Thank you for loving me.

Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.

Amen.