

January Week 4

3-K

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 each of the 3 story stickers.**

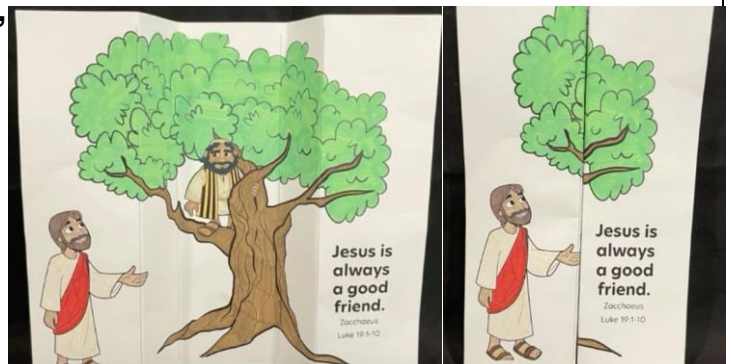
- *"Friends, come sit at the table. We're going to make a craft to remind us of our story today. Who do you see on this picture? (Pause.) Yes, there's Zacchaeus in the tree! Zacchaeus was a tax collector and collected money from people. But he took money that wasn't his! That's not good! Who else do 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:** Smiley face and star stress balls (1 per kid)

### **What You DO and SAY:**

⇒ **Gather the children and give each child a stress face ball.**

- *“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. I’m going to give you all a happy face and I want you to hold onto it so we can use it as we retell our story.”*

⇒ **Review the story and encourage children to hold up their happy faces 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 put your happy face up in the air. Let’s practice. Jesus makes me HAPPY (hold up the happy faces.) Great job! Now put them 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 (hold up your happy face) 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 (hold up your happy face) 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! (Hold up your happy face.) Zacchaeus went and gave back all the money he took. This made lots of people very HAPPY!” (Hold up your happy face.)*

⇒ **Bring it back to the Bottom Line and collect the balls.**

- *“Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus when Zacchaeus was HAPPY. (Put your happy face up.) 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 (hold up your happy face) 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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## ACTIVITY #3

### *Memory Verse Practice*

**SUPPLIES:** Heart stress ball, CD Player, EC Worship CD

#### **What You DO and SAY:**

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

- *“Friends, come sit in a circle with me. Let’s say our Memory Verse together while we do the motions. Ready? ‘A friend (hook index fingers twice) loves you (cross arms over chest) all the time,’ (tap wrist) Proverbs 17:17. (Open hands like a book.) Great job! I’ve got a heart here to remind us of our verse. 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!”*
  - *“A friend loves you all the time.”*  
*Proverbs 17:17*

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

⇒ **Bring it Back to the bottom line.**

- *“Great job, friends!”*
- ***Who is always a good friend?***
- ***Jesus is always a good friend!”***

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

### PASS OUT MOON SAND

#### READ

- *The Beginner's Bible* "A Short Man" p 413

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

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
  - ***Who is always a good friend?***
  - ***Jesus is always a good friend!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
  - **"A friend loves you all the time." Proverbs 17:17**

### CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ "In our story, Zacchaeus was happy because Jesus wanted to spend time with him. Think about some things that make you happy. When I say your name, tell me **one thing that makes you happy**, and I will write it down.
  - *Write each child's name on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Let's use our list when we pray...
- ⇒ Let's fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
  - *"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is always a good friend. Knowing that Jesus wants to be our friend forever makes us the happiest! Thank You for other things that make us happy too, like (read the list the children made). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."*