

ALLEY SG – February 14th- 15th, 2026

Bible Story: Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Conversation Starter: How can love change things?

Monthly Memory Verse: “*I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.*” • John 13:34 NIV

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Prepared bottle of water with “Zacchaeus” label from activity sheet (1 per bin – with 1 extra)

What You Do:

- Ask: “What was the biggest change you saw in Zacchaeus after he met Jesus?” (*He went from selfish and greedy to generous and fair.*)
- Show the group the water bottle. Tell them this is the “Zacchaeus Bottle Flip Challenge.”
- Let kids take turns trying to flip the water bottle and have it land standing up.
- Explain that just like flipping the water bottle can completely change its position, Jesus’ love completely flipped Zacchaeus’s life around.
- Discuss the following questions:
 - Why do you think Jesus chose to spend time with Zacchaeus when everyone else disliked him?
 - How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by name and wanted to come to his house?
 - What does this story show you about how Jesus sees people—especially those who have made wrong choices?
- Say:** “It’s amazing to think about how much Zacchaeus changed in one day. Jesus didn’t condemn him or order him to pay everyone back. Jesus simply made it clear how much He loved him. Jesus looked up into the sycamore-fig tree and said, ‘*Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today*’ (Luke 19:5 NIV). That love transformed him from the inside out. Zacchaeus went from being someone nobody trusted to someone who was making things right and being generous, promising to pay back four times the amount he took. It’s proof that **the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**”

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Large paper (one per group) and marker

What You Do:

- Tell the group that you’re going to create a “Top Ten” list together.
- The title of the list is: “Top Ten Ways to Share the Love of Jesus.” Write that across the top of the board.

- Challenge the group to brainstorm a list of ten practical, everyday ways they can show Jesus' love to the people around them.
- Write their ideas on the paper. Encourage them to be specific.
 - Instead of "be nice," maybe "invite someone new to sit with my group at lunch."
 - Instead of "help people," maybe "ask my parents if I can help with a chore before they ask me."
- Keep brainstorming until you have a solid list of ten great ideas.
- **Say:** "This is an incredible list that we can put into action. Zacchaeus didn't just feel bad about his choices; he made a plan to change. He took action."

3. Discussion Questions

- Zacchaeus climbed a tree just to see Jesus. What do you think made him so eager to see Jesus—and what might that say about what was missing in his life?
- Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and wanted to spend time with him, even though others called Zacchaeus a "sinner." What does this teach you about how Jesus sees people who have messed up or feel left out?
- Zacchaeus didn't just feel loved—he changed. Why do you think experiencing Jesus' love made Zacchaeus want to make things right instead of being told to?
- The crowd judged Zacchaeus and whispered about him, but Jesus chose kindness. When have you seen someone judged by others, and how could you respond more like Jesus in that kind of moment?
- The story says that the love of Jesus changes people. How has knowing that Jesus loves you—no matter what—changed the way you see yourself or treat others?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball

- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together. "*I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.*" • John 13:34
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass the ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- “God, thank You for the incredible story of Zacchaeus. It’s a powerful reminder that Your love can change absolutely anything for the better. Please help in the situations we wrote about in our journals. We believe that You can bring Your love and peace into each one. Help us to be part of that change by showing Your love to others this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the Alley for 3 Alley Cash!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can treat someone with love this week.