

CITY SG – February 14th- 15th, 2026

Bible Story: Zacchaeus • *Luke 19:1-10*

Bottom Line: The love of Jesus can change things for the better.

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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Valentine's Day activity page

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a Valentine's Day activity page.
- Talk to the kids about their week as they work on the page.

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Unbox the Story

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Box filled with the story props below

- ☐ Tree branch
- ☐ Coin
- ☐ Bag of coins
- ☐ Food item
- ☐ Foam heart
- ☐ Happy face
- ☐ Sad face
- ☐ Small Jesus figure

What You Do:

- Place the box in the middle of your group.
- Explain that you're going to "unbox" the story of Zacchaeus, just like in an unboxing video.
- Let kids take turns pulling one item out of the box.
- As each item is revealed, ask the kids how it connects to the story by asking the corresponding question.
 - **Tree branch:** "What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?"
 - **Coin:** "What was Zacchaeus's job? What did he do that was unfair?"
 - **Sad face:** "How did people feel about Zacchaeus?"
 - **Jesus figure:** "Who came to town that day?"
 - **Heart:** "Who loved Zacchaeus when no one else did?"
 - **Happy face:** "How did Zacchaeus feel after Jesus showed him love?"

- **Food item:** “What did Jesus do at Zacchaeus’s house?”
- **Bag of coins:** “What did Jesus do after Zacchaeus was changed by Jesus’ love?”
- **Say:** “Zacchaeus was not a very liked person, but Jesus saw him and loved him anyway. It changed Zacchaeus! He decided to give back the money he had taken and be generous. That’s **the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**”

2. Respond with Love

Application Activity

What You Need: “Respond with Love” Activity Pages (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Read one of the scenario cards aloud.
- Ask the group, “What would you normally want to do in that situation?” (e.g., get mad, say something mean back)
- Then ask: “How can you respond with the love of Jesus instead?”
- Brainstorm kind and loving responses together.
- Continue with each of the scenarios.
- **Say:** “Even when everyone was whispering that Jesus had gone to be the ‘guest of a sinner,’ Jesus chose love. We can ask Jesus to help us show love to others too. Zacchaeus’s response of generosity and making things right shows that **the love of Jesus can change things for the better.**”

3. Draw the Verse

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, Paper (one sheet per kid), Markers

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *“I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you.” • John 13:34 NIV*
- Repeat the verse aloud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and markers.
- Give each kid one part of the verse to write and then illustrate.
 - Kid 1: “I give
 - Kid 2: you a new command.
 - Kid 3: Love
 - Kid 4: one another.
 - Kid 5: You must
 - Kid 6: love

- Kid 7: one another,
- Kid 8: just as I
- Kid 9: have loved you.”
- Kid 10: John 13:34
- If you have more than 10 kids, pair kids to work together. If you have fewer than 10 kids, give each kid more than one part to write and illustrate.
- Invite the kids to put their pieces of paper together. Read the verse together several times.

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)*
- “Dear God, thank You for the story of Zacchaeus. It reminds us that Your love is so powerful. Please help us with the areas we talked to You about. We know that You can make things better. Help us to share Your love with 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 City for a PRIZE!

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