

UNIT VERSE

Love one another
as I have loved
you. John 13:34

JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS**LEADER BIBLE STUDY****CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION**

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

LIFE POINT

We can love all
people.

**LEVEL OF
BIBLICAL
LEARNING**

God wants me to
be a friend.

**SCRIPTURE
REFERENCE**

Luke 19:1–10

BIBLE VERSE

Love one another as
I have loved you.
John 13:34

If someone had to describe you, what identifiers would they use? Would they use your occupation or your financial status? Would they describe your physical attributes? Would they talk about your character?

Luke identifies Zacchaeus with three specific descriptions: tax collector, rich, and short. Being known as a rich tax collector most likely created significant friction in Zacchaeus' life. In those days, Jewish people did not trust tax collectors because they would treat the Jewish people unfairly and take more money than they were supposed to. Since Zacchaeus was known as a rich man, he would most likely have become wealthy by taking money from the Jewish people. It's fair to say that Zacchaeus was unpopular.

Knowing this, consider Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus in a tree, called him by name, and requested to stay at his house. Jesus recognized that Zacchaeus wanted to know Him. Being fully God and fully man, Jesus surely knew that Zacchaeus was a tax collector. But Jesus also knew that Zacchaeus needed a Savior. Zacchaeus quickly came down from the tree, repented, and promised to repay, four times over, any money he had extorted.

Why would Jesus choose to stay in the home of a "sinful man?" Because Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He looked beyond the descriptors that defined Zacchaeus and offered him a chance for a new identity.

What is your response to the lost world around you? Be honest. Do you ever respond the way the crowd did to Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus?

What would it look like if we followed Jesus' example to love others? Every day we have the opportunity to point those around us to a loving Father who sees beyond their failures and offers a chance for redemption.

As you pray this week, ask the Lord to open your eyes to see the lost and hurting people around you. Ask Him to give you a heart for those who need to hear the truth of the gospel and the boldness to share the good news.



Teach The Scripture

Intro

Hand each baby an instrument. Then the teacher says... "**Today we're going to hear about a man named Zacchaeus. Jesus loved Zacchaeus, and Jesus loves everyone!**" Show the Bible story picture while everyone gently shakes instruments. Sing (to the tune of Jesus Loves Me) 🎵 **Jesus loves all people, Yes He does, it's true. Jesus loves Zacchaeus, Jesus loves me and you.** 🎵

Repeat several times while pointing to the picture and inviting babies to shake instruments. End by saying: "**We can love all people!**"

Scripture for Babies

JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS

—Based on Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was a short man.

Zacchaeus climbed up in a tree so he could see Jesus as He walked by.

Jesus stopped and told

Zacchaeus to come down.

Jesus went to Zacchaeus'

Scripture for Ones

JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS

—Based on Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus (za KEE uhs) wanted to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus was too short to see over all the people.

Zacchaeus climbed high up in a tree. Now he could see Jesus!

Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree.

He said, "Come down, Zacchaeus. Let's go to your house."

Zacchaeus climbed down. Jesus went to his house.

Zacchaeus said he would give money back to people from who he had taken too much money

Wrap Up

Mirror Time Hold the mirror in front of each baby. Teacher says: "**Who do you see?**" Pause. "**Jesus loves you, Jesus loves (name of the baby).**" Repeat with each child.



BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

ART

Children use green paint or stamp pads to make fingerprint trees. As children create their trees, talk about how Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and loved him. Say, "Jesus loved Zacchaeus. [Child's name] can be like Jesus and love others too."

BLOCKS

Use large soft blocks to help children build a tall tree. Place a small Bible figure or doll beside it. As children play, say, "Zacchaeus climbed a tree. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and loved him. Jesus loves you too!"

HOMELIVING

Fill a basket with soft play food. Encourage children to hand food to a friend or teacher. As they share and play together, say, "Jesus showed love to Zacchaeus. We can be like Jesus and love all people."

NATURE

Allow babies to touch and pat leaves or pour and dump leaves into buckets. As they explore, say, "Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and loved him."

PUZZLES & MANIPULATIVES

Provide a simple wooden tree puzzle with large pieces. Help babies hold, explore, and fit the pieces together. As children work on the puzzle, say, "Zacchaeus climbed a tree. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and loved him."