



MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

Zacchaeus

LUKE 19:1-10

BIBLE WORDS

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) begins with a man named Zacchaeus and the time that Jesus came to town.

"Everyone was so happy that Jesus was coming—even Zacchaeus! Friends, show me your happy faces! (*Pause.*) Those are wonderful happy faces! When Jesus got to town, everyone crowded around Him, but Zacchaeus was small and couldn't see over all the people. So, Zacchaeus climbed up into a tree. Stand up, and let's pretend to climb up a tree. Climb, climb, climb. Now look around. (*Flat hand to forehead, and look out around the room.*) We can see, just like Zacchaeus! Jesus could see Zacchaeus in the tree and told him to come down. Jesus wanted to go Zacchaeus' house. Let's all climb down from the tree. Climb, climb, climb. Whew! We made it! Everyone, sit down with me. (*Pause.*) Jesus was such a good friend to Zacchaeus that Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. Zacchaeus had made a bad choice and taken money that wasn't his, so to love like Jesus, he gave back all the money he had taken! 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.**"



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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Happy Door Hanger" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads in a variety of colors, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Happy Door Hanger" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to select an ink color that makes them happy. Then, help cover their entire palm with that color ink. Press child's palm down on top of the happy face, then wipe clean.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus is a good friend to us too—when we are sad, or excited, afraid, or happy. Look at these fun colors. (*Point to the ink pads.*) Do you have a favorite color or a color that makes you happy? (*Pause.*) Oh, I like that color too! Let's cover your hand with that color and stamp it on your paper. (*Stamp on the face on their paper, then clean hands.*) We made the happy face on your paper a happy color! Jesus is a good friend to you and me because **Jesus is always a good friend!**"