

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen
in the brain and taps into the energy
in the body

**GOTCHA!**

[EARLY ARRIVAL ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No Supplie Needed

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Calling of the Disciples
Luke 5:1-11, 27-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

I can have confidence
because I belong.

MEMORY VERSE

"My command is this: Love each
other as I have loved you."
John 15:12, NIV

LIFE APP

Confidence—Learning to see
yourself as God sees you.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Be prepared to misquote the verse (John 15:12) by omitting or changing a key word.
- Tell the group that you are going to quote the memory verse a few times.
- Ask the kids to shout, "Gotcha!" if they catch you saying the verse incorrectly.
- End by saying the verse accurately together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"This verse tells us that God wants us to love others the way He loves us. God demonstrates His love for you by constantly forgiving you no matter what you do. You can be confident because God will forgive you no matter what. [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am forgiven. In the same way, you can love others the way God wants you to by forgiving them when they hurt you. That's what love does. When you see yourself as forgiven by God, it gives you the boldness to forgive others, which then makes them feel loved."

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines as a group

**NOT GUILTY**

TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible marked at Luke 19
- "Zacchaeus" Activity Page

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to spread out so they can move around without coming into contact with other kids.
- Open your Bible to Luke 19 and read the "Zacchaeus" Activity Page in your own words, guiding kids to pantomime the action as you go.
 - Kids can pantomime jumping up as they try to see over the crowd, climbing the tree, sitting on a branch, looking for Jesus, climbing down, giving money back.
- When you finish, ask these questions:
 - What job did Zacchaeus have? (He was a tax collector.)
 - What did Zacchaeus do that was wrong? (He took too much money from people, even poor people.)
 - When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming, he climbed a _____ (sycamore tree).
 - Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree? (He wanted to see Jesus. He was short, so he climbed up where he could see Jesus.)
 - When Jesus came to the tree where Zacchaeus was, He looked up and said, "_____" ("Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." Luke 19:5 NIV)
 - What did Zacchaeus do? (He came down. He welcomed Jesus. He promised to give half his money to the poor and if he had stolen from anyone, he would pay back four times what he had stolen.)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When Zacchaeus realized that Jesus wanted to spend time with him—even though he had made himself rich while other people were poor—it gave him the CONFIDENCE to follow Jesus. He was forgiven!

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you asked God to forgive you for something you'd done, whether it was lying, stealing, or being unkind. Share what you said to God when you asked Him to forgive you. Also share how you felt afterwards. Remember to keep it kid-appropriate.)

"Will Jesus forgive YOU when you do something wrong? (Yes.) Will He forgive you if you take something that belongs to someone else? (Yes.) Will He forgive you if you lie? (Yes.) Will He forgive you if you say mean things? (Yes.) Yes! When you ask Jesus to forgive you, He will! Jesus doesn't want you to do bad things, but when you DO mess up, you can always go to Him and tell Him that you're sorry—and He'll forgive you! He loves you! You can say it this way:

[Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am forgiven. Say it with me: [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am forgiven."

One day, Jesus came to Jericho. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector, and he was really rich! He was rich because when he took money from people for taxes, he would also take a little—or A LOT—for himself. He would even take money from poor people.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was a short man and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't see over the crowd. (pause for kids to attempt to look over a "crowd") So Zacchaeus ran ahead (pause) and climbed a sycamore-fig tree (pause) to see Jesus (pause for kids to "look" for Jesus), since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus came to the tree, he looked up and said to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5 NIV). So

Zacchaeus came down at once (pause) and welcomed Jesus gladly (pause)

When all the people saw this, they began to whisper, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner!" (Luke 19:7 NIV)

When Zacchaeus heard this, he said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back." (Luke 19:8 NIV) (pause for kids to "give") "If I stole one dollar, I'll pay back four dollars! If I stole 10 dollars, I'll pay back 40 dollars! If I stole 100 dollars, I'll pay back 400 dollars!"

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house" (Luke 19:9 NIV).

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application

**PRAYER**

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry Erase Markers
- Dry Erase Erasers (or Tissues)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to close their eyes and imagine they're climbing the tree to see Jesus, that they see Jesus calling to them, and that they come down to Jesus. Ask:
 - Is Jesus smiling?
 - Is He giving you a hug?
- Use the conversation and activity below to lead kids into silent prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like Jesus wanted to have a relationship with Zacchaeus, He wants to have a relationship with you too. No matter what you may have done wrong, Jesus loves you, and He wants to forgive you! And when Jesus forgives you, you can be CONFIDENT to love others just like Jesus loves you!"

(Give each kid a dry erase marker. Lead kids to draw or write something they've done or said that they want to ask forgiveness for. It might be something unkind they said to their brother or sister, a time they disobeyed, or something unkind they did to a friend. Direct kids to silently pray, asking Jesus to forgive them. Give each kid a tissue and lead them to erase what they've drawn or written.)

"When Jesus forgives us, it's like He erases—or forgets—the hurtful things we say or do. So remember: [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am _____ (lead kids to say, forgiven)!"

TRAVEL TIME:

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going, and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning.

TRAVEL TIME:

- How do you feel when you've done something that you know you shouldn't do? (yucky, bad, sad, sorry)
- What does it feel like to be forgiven? (happy, good, etc.)
- [Bottom Line] I can have confidence because I am _____ (lead kids to say, forgiven)!"

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