

Lesson 13

-Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree-

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

2-5 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together again today. Please help us to learn about you. Help us also to do the things you want us to do and follow in your footsteps. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10). You can tell this story from a children’s bible or just tell it in a way that this age group can understand.

Luke
19: 1-10

Discussion:

Talk about how we all do things that are not good sometimes. Emphasize that even though we might not always do good things, that does not make us bad people in God’s eyes. Talk about how

we try not to do those bad things again and that God thinks that we are good people for trying to be good.

Activity:

Use butcher paper to draw a large tree. Give the children pre-cut leaves to tape to the tree. Then have them try to put a pre-cut Zacchaeus on the tree, (like Pin the Tail on the Donkey), to see if they can get him on a branch,

Song:

Sing the song Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see.
And as the Savior passed him by, He looked up in the tree,
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there;
For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today."

Zacchaeus came down from that tree, as happy as he could be,
He gave his money to the poor, and said: What a better man I'll be."



Closing Prayer to ask for help to do good things. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for helping us learn about you. Thank you for loving us even when we are not so good. Please help us to do good things for you and for others. Amen."

6-8 Years:

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together again on this day. Please help us to learn from your words and follow in your ways. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Tell the story of Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus (Luke 19: 1-10). You can use a children’s bible to tell the story. If you do not have a children’s bible, you can tell the story in a way that children of this age can understand.

**Discussion:**

Talk about how Zacchaeus looked hard for Jesus and got very close to him. Discuss some ways that we can look for God in our own lives.

Activity:

Draw a large tree on butcher paper. Let the children tape precut leaves to it. Then let them try to put a precut Zacchaeus on it like Pin the Tail on the Donkey to see who can get Zacchaeus on a branch.

Activity:

Give the children figs to taste. Explain that Zacchaeus climbed a fig-sycamore tree to see Jesus.

Closing Prayer to ask for help in looking for Jesus. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for being there for us. Thank you for guiding us everyday. Please help us to look for you in our lives. Amen.”

9-11 Years:

Opening Prayer to welcome the start of the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to learn about you. Please help us to follow you and walk in your footsteps. Amen.”

Bible Story:

Have the several students take turns reading the story of Zacchaeus climbing in the tree to see Jesus, which is Luke 19: 1-10. After the passage has been read discuss what the story was about to make sure that they understood what they read.

**Discussion:**

Talk about how everyone sins. Remind the students that just because we sin does not mean that we are bad people. Talk about how we can show our disapproval of the sin that people commit without turning our back on the person who has committed the sin.

Art:

Give each student a piece of paper. Have them draw a tree. Then have them draw Zacchaeus in the tree and write “Luke 19: 1-10” on their paper.

Closing Prayer to ask for help in disapproving of sins but loving the sinners. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for leading us in our fellowship. Please help us to show people that we do not approve of the sins that they commit, but that we still love them. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”

12-14 Years:

Opening Prayer to open the session. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for bringing us together to worship you. Please help us to gain a better understanding of you and your words. Help us to follow your path. Amen.”

Discussion:

Ask the students if everyone sins or if there is anyone who does not sin, besides Jesus. Talk to them about sins and the sinner. Explain that everyone is a sinner because everyone sins, but that does not mean that we are all bad people.

Bible Reading:

Appoint several students to read Luke 19: 1-10. Have them read until the passage has been read completely. At the end of the passage discuss what happened in this story so that you can be sure that everyone understood what was read.

**Discussion:**

Remind them of the discussion before the bible reading. Discuss what they can do to show their disapproval of the sins that are being committed around them and show that they still love the sinner.

Closing Prayer to ask for help in disapproving of the sins committed around us. For example:

“Dear God, thank you for loving us unconditionally. Please help us to show others that we disapprove of the sins that they commit while we still love them. Help us to continue to grow in our faith. Please keep us safe in your care. Amen.”