

LESSON 4

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Seeks and Saves Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus seeks out a tax collector named Zacchaeus and asks to be a guest in his home where Zacchaeus changes his ways, and Jesus welcomes him back into God's family.

WORD OF WONDER: God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. —from John 3:16

Activity: Leaves and Trees

Activity: Seek and Find

Worship

God's Big Story

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Hide and Seek

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Leaves and Trees

SUPPLIES: leaves (fake or real) and twigs

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Zacchaeus and the Tree Picture Sheet

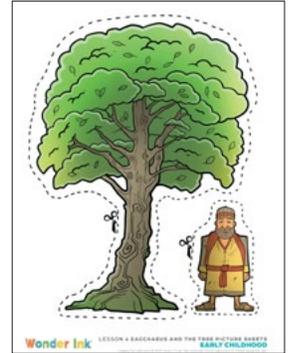
Ahead of time, print a copy of Zacchaeus and the Tree Picture Sheet. Gather some leaves (fake or real) and twigs, then set them out.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so glad you're at church today. Come see what we have today.

Let the kids look at and feel the leaves. Let them smell the leaves. Ask them what they see and what they smell. Ask them what colors they see. Let the kids play with the leaves and twigs.

We have leaves and branches from a tree. In our God's big story for today, we're going to learn about a man who climbed a tree. Would you want to climb a tree? Allow the kids to respond. **Look at the pictures of the tree.**



Activity: Seek and Find

In God's big story today, we'll see how Jesus came to seek and save the lost. That means He came to find us so we can be saved. Let's play a game where we try to find different things around the room.

Describe different things in the room and see if the kids can find the object you are talking about. For example, if you have a slide in the room you could say, "Kids like to climb up the ladder on this so they can go down the other side." If you have a very young group, you could just ask them to find the objects. For example, "Can you find a slide in this room?" You can also let the kids take turns hiding while you seek them.

Good job finding things! To seek means to look for or search for. You searched for and found things. We'll learn today that Jesus seeks us.

Did you know that Jesus came to seek and save us? Our Wonder Truth today is: JESUS SEEKS AND SAVES US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—Point up.

SEEKS—Make pretend binoculars with your hands around your eyes.

AND SAVES—Hug yourself.

US—Point to yourself.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we're learning that Jesus seeks and saves. We'll learn in the God's big story how Jesus came to save a man who the other people did not like. Jesus loves and saves us all. Let's thank Him!

Play songs from the [Hanging Out with Jesus Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: doll (male)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Zacchaeus in a Tree God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a man named Zacchaeus (Zack-EE-us), who met Jesus. Encourage the kids to say "Zacchaeus." Let's find out from the Bible what happened!

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

Today's part of God's big story is going to be fun! Listen carefully, because I am going to tell you different actions to do during the story.

Jesus was coming through town one day. There was a man who lived there named Zacchaeus. Most people didn't like him because he stole from them. Pretend to grab something. Pause to allow the kids to do the action. **Zacchaeus stole money from people. Give a thumbs down.** Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over all the other people. Can you pretend you're looking for Jesus? Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

So Zacchaeus decided to climb a tree to see better. Pretend to climb a tree. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

When Jesus passed by, He saw Zacchaeus and told him to come down. Let's pretend we are Zacchaeus coming down the tree. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

He told Zacchaeus that He wanted to go to his house! Zacchaeus came right down and welcomed Jesus to his home. Pretend to walk to your home. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

The crowd wondered why Jesus would want to go visit the home of someone like Zacchaeus. But Zacchaeus told Jesus that he was sorry for what he had done.

Jesus told Zacchaeus he was saved. Clap your hands and cheer! Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

Jesus looked for Zacchaeus because He wanted to bring him back into the family—God's family! What an amazing truth! Jesus didn't just come for Zacchaeus; He came for all of us! He loves us and wants to know us too. Jesus seeks and saves us.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#) (optional)

WORD OF WONDER

God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son.

—from John 3:16

Display the Word of Wonder Slide or [Video](#), if using.

Let's practice our Word of Wonder! Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from John 3:16: God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son. Practice saying the verse with the kids several times.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you:

- **GOD**—Point up to God.
- **SO LOVED**—Hands on heart.
- **THE WORLD**.—Hands in a big circle over your head.
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—Point up with one finger.
- **AND ONLY SON**.—Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. Put your hands around your eyes like binoculars to thank God that He seeks and saves us. Invite the kids to make binoculars around their eyes.

God, thank You for coming to find us, seek us, forgive us, and save us. Thank You for always loving us no matter what we do or what others think. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Jesus knows you by name. He loves you, and He hears your prayers. You matter to God! May you always remember that Jesus seeks and saves you!

Activity: Hide and Seek

SUPPLIES: doll (male) or paper person

We're learning that Jesus came to seek and save us. He looked for Zacchaeus in a tree and came to Zacchaeus' house. Zacchaeus was changed! Jesus loves us and seeks us too. Let's play a game where we seek.

Play a simple game of Hide and Seek with the kids. Invite the kids to hide while you count to 10. Then try to find them. Make sure you have another trusted adult in the room who is watching the kids while you shut your eyes and they hide. Then play again, but this time, hide a doll or paper person. Tell the kids to pretend it's Zacchaeus.

Today we learned about a time when Jesus found Zacchaeus in a tree and how He saved him. Remember, Jesus seeks and saves us, too!