

LESSON 29

Jesus & Zacchaeus

LUKE 18:35–19:10



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 18:35—19:10 from the Scriptures or read story 107, “Jesus & Zacchaeus” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Find Zacchaeus

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten small plastic toy men (you can use a variety of children’s toys for this exercise)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Jesus Knows Us Each by Name

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 29—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Bartimaeus, the Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes for the children made of flat sheets and towels, ropes, and a few wooden staffs
- ✓ blindfold

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus called for Bartimaeus—Word of the raising of Lazarus spread. As Jesus neared Jericho, a large crowd gathered to see him. As Jesus walked by, blind Bartimaeus, sitting by the side of the road, cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (Mark 10:47). The crowd tried to silence Bartimaeus, but he only called louder. This blind man knew who Jesus was, at least in part. Jesus was the promised descendant of David who would reign on the throne. There would be no other reason to call out his name like this. Why not say “son of Joseph” or “Jesus of Nazareth”? This man had faith that Jesus was no ordinary man and had the power to heal. Jesus heard the man’s cries, stopped, and called for him (Mark 10:49). Within minutes, Bartimaeus could see Jesus with his own eyes, and Jesus’ fame spread all the more.

Jesus called to Zacchaeus—The crowds gathered around Jesus made it difficult for Zacchaeus, a rich yet diminutive tax collector, to glimpse the man who could heal the blind and raise the dead. Eager to see Jesus over the crowd, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree. Unlike Bartimaeus, Zacchaeus was quiet as he sat up in the tree. Though Zacchaeus didn’t call to Jesus, Jesus knew he was there, walked up to the tree, and called Zacchaeus by name! The call of Jesus transformed Zacchaeus’ life. He immediately repented of his sin and announced that he would pay back all those he had cheated.

Jesus came to save—After Zacchaeus came down from the tree and repented, the people were amazed. Not only did Jesus do physical miracles, but he was also able to change the hearts of men. Now even tax collectors were giving back to those they had defrauded. It was the icing on the cake. Tax collectors collaborated with the Romans and were often considered traitors. Here the people saw a tax collector turn from his Roman collaboration back to the people of Israel. Jesus, identifying himself with the Messianic title the Son of Man, announced that Zacchaeus was saved because he was a “son of Abraham.” The people thought, for sure, the kingdom of God was going to appear at once (Luke 19:11). What they didn’t realize was that Jesus had come to save his people from their sin, not their Roman domination.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus makes the connection to the gospel in this story. Jesus announces, "Today salvation has come to this house." (Luke 19:9). Though it seems that Zacchaeus was trying to draw near to Jesus, it was in fact Jesus who came to save Zacchaeus. The mission of Christ to "seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) remains his mission today. Zacchaeus met Jesus along the road, we meet Jesus by reading his Word. But either way, we don't come to Jesus as much as he seeks us. For nobody comes to Jesus unless the Father draws him (John 6:44).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 8:22–39 from the Scriptures or read story 98, "Jesus Calms the Storm," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Find Zacchaeus

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ ten small plastic toy men (you can use a variety of children's toys for this exercise)

This activity is designed to introduce the children to the fact that Jesus knew where to look for Zacchaeus, and he knows exactly where we are as well. Jesus simply walked to the place where Zacchaeus was and looked up at him.

Prior to class, hide the men around the room. They should at least be partly visible. When the children come in, ask them if they can spot the toy men hiding in the room. Have them count the number of men (not touching them) and report the number to you.

Ask the children who thinks there are seven, eight, etc. Only allow the children one answer and call out the actual number toward the end. Ask the children the following questions:

- **How did Jesus find Zacchaeus?**
(Jesus simply walked to the spot and looked up and saw him.)
- **Do you think Jesus knew Zacchaeus was in the tree before he saw him?**
(yes)
- **How do we know Jesus knew Zacchaeus was up in the tree?**
(Jesus knew where to look and then called him by name.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Jesus Knows Us Each by Name

This object lesson demonstrates the wonder that Jesus knew Zacchaeus and knows us all by name.

Select a student who has been around for a while. Ask the student to name everyone in the class. Keep trying this with new volunteers until someone can name every person. Then ask the following questions:

- **Was it difficult to tell everyone's name?**
- **Was there anyone whose name you didn't know? If so, how did you feel when you came to them?**
(It's hard to guess the name of someone I don't know.)
- **How did Jesus know Zacchaeus's name?**
(Jesus is God and knows all things.)

■ Does he know us?

(Yes. Jesus knows us by name. John tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 29—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

■ Who is in the picture and= what is he doing?

(Zacchaeus is giving away money to the poor.)

■ Why would Zacchaeus be giving away money to the poor?

(Prior to meeting Jesus he cheated the poor. Now he is giving the money back.)

■ Why would Zacchaeus be happy to be giving money away?

(Jesus changed Zacchaeus's heart from being greedy and sinful and not loving and following God to one that loved God and wanted to follow him.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Bartimaeus, the Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes for the children made of flat sheets and towels, and a few wooden staffs
- ✓ blindfold

Act out Luke 18:35–43 (see also Mark 10:46–52, where we learn the blind man’s name). Assign the roles of Jesus, Bartimaeus, and the crowd. Create a pathway through the “crowd.” Bartimaeus can sit behind the crowd on one side with a blindfold and stick. Jesus can walk down the pathway. Read through the passage like a narrator, prompting the children with their lines as you go.

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