

# Zacchaeus

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Luke 19:1-10**

Lesson Focus  
**We can meet Jesus!**

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Center Time</b> Kids pretend to make dinner for their friends, make Zacchaeus trees with play clay, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	Play dishes, play utensils, play food, kid-sized table, chairs, tablecloth, napkins, green play clay, large craft sticks, blank paper, markers or crayons
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids sing a welcome song and pretend to climb trees.	None	None
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray while up in a pretend tree.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Zacchaeus Storytelling</b> Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
<b>Climb a Tree!</b> Kids pretend to be Zacchaeus and climb a tree.	None	Step stool
<b>Zacchaeus Sees Jesus</b> Kids use stickers and fingers to retell today's story.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Come Down, Zacchaeus!</b> Kids sing a song about today's story.	Leaflets	None
<b>Dinner Menu</b> Kids plan a menu for a dinner with Jesus.	Leaflets	None
<b>Snacking with Jesus</b> Kids eat snacks and remember today's story.	None	Cups, small plates, napkins, hand wipes (optional), snack crackers, serving bowl, fruit juice, kid-sized table and chairs

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids remember things they did today and receive a sticker.	Leaflets, Spark Story Bible, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids end the session with a repeat-after-me prayer.	Family Pages	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Center Time

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You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, make the sound of a train whistle and say, **"All aboard the dinner train! Choo choo!"** Go to each center and **"pick up" kids, forming a line holding hands. Jesus wants to eat dinner with everyone on the dinner train! Choo choo!** Lead the train into the Circle Time area.

### Dinner with Friends

Set the table for a dinner with friends. As kids come to this center, invite them to sit down and pretend to eat with you. Allow kids to take over the preparations.

### Play Clay Trees

Roll play clay into individual balls. Place one ball of play clay on the table in front of each chair. Scatter large craft sticks on top of the table. Sit with kids as they explore the play clay. Show kids how to make a tree using a craft stick stuck into a ball of green play clay. Explore other ways to make trees out of craft sticks and play clay.

### Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

### Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



### Supplies

Play dishes  
Play utensils  
Play food  
Kid-sized table  
Chairs  
Tablecloth  
Napkins  
Green play clay  
Large craft sticks  
Blank paper  
Markers or crayons

## Circle Time

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**Welcome, friends! Let's sing our welcome song. I wonder who is here today.** Sing this song to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush."

Spark Resources  
None

**Now it's time for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Now it's time for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

Supplies  
None

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

**[Name]'s here for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
[Name]'s here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

**In today's story, a man named Zacchaeus climbs a tree. Let's pretend to climb a tree. Use your arms to grab the branches. Use your legs to climb. Let's climb all the way to the top of the tree. What do you see up here?** Pause. **I see a bunch of people waiting for someone. Who are they are waiting for?** (*Jesus*)

## Prayer Time

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**Now let's pretend we have climbed a tree and we are each sitting on a branch. Hold on tightly to your branch. Let's talk to God from up here.**

Spark Resources  
None

**Dear God,  
We're up here in this tree.  
Thank you for trees.  
Thank you for anything that helps us to see you better.  
Amen.**

Supplies  
None

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## Zacchaeus Storytelling

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**In our story today, a rich man named Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. Let's find out what happens.**

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Zacchaeus on pages 400–405. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make faces like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer. **What did Zacchaeus do so that he could see Jesus?** (*climbed a tree*) **What did Jesus want to do with Zacchaeus?** (*eat dinner at Zacchaeus's home*)

**What do you think Zacchaeus and Jesus ate for dinner? What do you think they talked about?** Affirm all responses.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bible

Supplies  
None

## Climb a Tree!

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**Zacchaeus needed to climb a tree to see Jesus. Let's all pretend to be Zacchaeus.** Pull out the step stool. Let kids, one at a time, pretend to be Zacchaeus by climbing the step stool. **What do you see up there?** After a kid has been on the step stool for a few moments, say, "[Name], come down, Jesus loves you and wants to have dinner with you!"

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Step stool

## Zacchaeus Sees Jesus

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Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.** Walk your fingers up the tree and have kids do the same. **I have some stickers. Let's put Zacchaeus in the tree.** Pass out the Zacchaeus stickers—one for his head and one for his body. **Now Zacchaeus is high enough to see Jesus. Let's put Jesus under the tree.** Pass out the Jesus stickers. **Now Jesus can see Zacchaeus. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I want to have dinner at your house today!"** Walk your fingers back down the tree and over to Jesus, and have kids do the same.

Spark Resources  
Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

Supplies  
None

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Come Down, Zacchaeus!

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Ask kids to turn over their leaflets. **A lot of people didn't like Zacchaeus. But Jesus wanted to eat dinner with him. Jesus cares about everybody. There is a song on our leaflet. Let's learn it. Everyone clap with me.** Sing this piggyback song to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Sing very slowly the first time and then at a more moderate pace as you repeat it several times.

**Come down, Zacchaeus.  
Come down, Zacchaeus.  
Come and play.  
Come and play.  
Halle, hallelujah.  
Halle, hallelujah.  
I'm going to your  
Your house today.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## Dinner Menu

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**Before Zacchaeus saw Jesus, he did some bad things. People didn't like him because of the bad things he did. But Jesus wanted to eat dinner with him. This surprised the people. Why would Jesus want to eat with Zacchaeus? Jesus loves everyone and would eat dinner with anyone. Zacchaeus stopped doing bad things when he learned that Jesus loved him.**

Point to the pictures of food on the leaflet. **Let's pretend that Jesus is coming to dinner with us! I wonder what we would have for dinner?** Go around the table and ask each kid what he or she would like to eat with Jesus, and repeat the whole menu each time a kid adds a food. Start by saying, **"Jesus is coming to dinner, and we are having bananas."** The kid to your left will add a food. Respond by saying, **"Jesus is coming to dinner, and we are having bananas and [the food the first kid named]."** Continue around the table. This is a memorization challenge for the leader, but kids can join in as they are able, give you hints, or laugh when you make a mistake!

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## Snacking with Jesus

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Wash your hands or use the hand wipes. Wipe off the table. Make sure there is one empty chair. Pass out the hand wipes. If not using hand wipes, make sure kids wash their hands. Pass out plates and napkins or ask two kids to help with this task.

Make sure the empty seat is also set with a plate and napkin. Pour crackers into the serving bowl. Place the juice and cups at your seat. Sit down with the kids and say a table grace. Begin to pass the crackers. Pour the juice and pass it around from your seat. Begin a table conversation. **Jesus ate dinner with Zacchaeus. Today we are eating our snack with Jesus. We can't see him, but let's pretend that we can. Let's pretend that Jesus is sitting in the empty seat at our table. Let's remember to give Jesus some crackers and juice! How would you act if Jesus were sitting here? What would you like to talk with Jesus about? What questions would you ask? What would you tell him?** Allow time for responses.

*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Cups  
Small plates  
Napkins  
Hand wipes (optional)  
Snack crackers  
Serving bowl  
Fruit juice  
Kid-sized table and chairs

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **What did we do today? Let's each remember one thing we did today. When I give you our Spark Story Bible to hold, tell me one thing we did today.** There are no right or wrong answers. If a kid is not interested in the activity, please honor his or her feelings. After each kid has recalled something about the day, give him or her a Jesus sticker. Kids don't have to say anything to get stickers. Allow kids to put the stickers on themselves.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home with you, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. You and your family can pretend to eat with Jesus. Munch, munch, munch. What will you eat?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Spark Story Bible  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**It's time to pray to God. Here's a peek-a-boo prayer. Repeat after me.**

**Dear God,**

**When I hide from you,** (Cover your eyes.)

**Find me. Peek-a-boo!** (Uncover your eyes.)

**Amen.** (Fold your hands.)

Repeat this prayer many times!

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

**Spark Resources**

Family Pages



**Supplies**

None