

Elementary (Kindergarten-5th grade)

Lesson 3

Luke 19:1-10

Know Right:	Jesus changes Zacchaeus.
Think Right:	“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17
Do Right:	I will be changed by Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel different when I am changed by Jesus.

GET READY!

“Changed”, “transformed”, and “made new” are all words that describe us when we believe in Jesus. In fact, Jesus said we must be born again! As you prepare for this week’s lesson, think about how you were changed when you found salvation and freedom in Christ.

Pray: As you prepare to serve, pray that God will give you a clear understanding of Scripture and that the students in your class will desire to be changed by Jesus.

Read: Luke 19:1-10

Know Right: Jesus changes Zacchaeus

Jesus drew a crowd everywhere He traveled, and Jericho was no exception. Because of the multitude that gathered as Jesus came through, a short, sinful tax collector named Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see the Savior. Although the people scorned Zacchaeus, Jesus insisted on going to his house that day. Jesus’ impact on Zacchaeus through his salvation is clear. He was changed from a greedy tax collector to a humble and repentant follower of the Lord. The account of Zacchaeus challenges us to be changed by Jesus.

GET SET!

Lead Teacher’s Notes:

- It is important to emphasize that Zacchaeus was saved first, and then he changed. Otherwise, students may become confused and think it is by works that we are saved.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Create an empty comic strip across the front of your room. Divide the lesson into small sections and sketch out the main points as you teach. If you have a smaller class, you can allow students to come up and add to the comic strip as you teach.
2. Bring in an actor to play Zacchaeus. Have him share what happened when he saw Jesus. Have him hand out a few bags of gold coins to select students stating he owes them money and it is four times as much as he took from them. After he leaves the room, have the students read the lesson from the Bible to better understand the details of the account. Bonus idea: Give students small bags of candy as they enter the classroom. Tell students they cannot eat the candy until after class. As Zacchaeus enters, have him take the candy from the students. As he leaves, have him give back four times as much.
3. In your classroom, create the scene where Jesus talked to Zacchaeus using a brown tarp to make a road and fake trees.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game and Worship

Worship Leaders will lead students in a review game followed by worship. Details are in the appendix.

Discover Time: What a change!

Goal: To illustrate the concept of change.

Option 1

Have a professional pottery artist demonstrate how to shape a pot out of clay.

Option 2

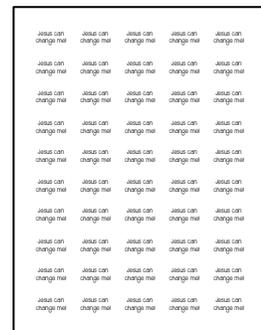
Kindergarten: Art Station

Supplies:

- Clay (enough for each student to take home)
- Small 1-inch “signs” on toothpicks with “Jesus can change me!” (see thumbnail; printable resource provided)
- Sample of finished project
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to compete by **changing** the clay into a 3D figure of themselves (head and body). The student with the winning creation will get five Tracker Tickets.
2. As the students mold the clay, talk about how the clay is **changing** into the shape of a person.
3. Tell them to add a toothpick sign to their figure’s hand.
4. When time is up, choose the winning figure and award five Tracker Tickets to the winner.
5. Allow students to take their clay creations home.



1st Grade: Box Station

Supplies:

- “Sin” and “Clean” box signs (see thumbnails; printable resource provided)
- 50 boxes – 2 sets of 25 (each box should have a “Sin” sign taped to one side and a “Clean” sign taped to the opposite side)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Before the DT, each team’s set of boxes should be stacked to the ceiling with the sin side showing.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into two teams.
2. Assign each team a pre-stacked set of boxes.
3. Challenge teams to compete to totally **change** their stack of boxes from sin to clean first without tipping them over. If they are tipped over, they must restack the boxes, changing them all back so the sin side is showing, and start over.
4. Award five Tracker Tickets to the winning team members.
5. Repeat if time allows.



2nd Grade: Play-Doh Station

Supplies:

- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to compete by **changing** the Play-Doh into a 3D figure of themselves (head and body).
2. The student with the winning creation will get five Tracker Tickets.
3. As the students mold the Play-Doh, talk about how they are **changing** the Play-Doh by forming it into the shape of a person.
4. When time is up, choose the winning figure and award five Tracker Tickets to the winner.

3rd Grade: Mission Station - *The Mission Lesson is provided in the appendix*.*

**Included with a DL membership.*

4th Grade: LEGO Station

Supplies:

- Sample LEGO Person
- Tracker Tickets
- Camera

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Challenge students to compete by **changing** the LEGO blocks into a 3D figure of themselves. Remind them to use as much detail as possible. Figures must be at least one foot tall. Detail is very important. The student with the winning creation will get five Tracker Tickets.
2. As the students build their LEGO figure, talk about how the LEGO blocks are **changing** and forming into the shape of a person.
3. When time is up, choose the winning creation and award five Tracker Tickets to the winner.
4. Take a picture of the students with their LEGO figures of themselves.

5th Grade: Sand Station

Supplies:

- Rope (to divide the Sand Station in half)
- Shovels
- Tracker Tickets

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Challenge the teams to compete against each other by digging the biggest hole in five minutes. The winning team members will receive five Tracker Tickets each.
3. Award five Tracker Tickets to the winning team members.
4. Announce that it's time to **change!** The challenge is reversed—the team that fills their hole back in first will win five Tracker Tickets each.

Bible Lesson Introduction

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson: Change! Today you changed (clay, Play-Doh, LEGO bricks, boxes, sand)! Do you realize that God can change people? Let's look up 2 Corinthians 5:17 and read it. Jesus can take anyone and change their life. Today we will learn about a guy who was changed. Maybe, by the end of this lesson, you will be changed, too!

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, remind students that God changes people all around the world.

Pray: *In the beginning of each class, encourage one of your students to lead your class in prayer. This will help them learn to pray in a public setting and develop their spiritual leadership skills.*

Find it: *Write the verse reference, Luke 19:1, on the board and have students open their Bibles to Luke 19:1. Teach that the reference is the verse's address in the Bible. Remind students that Luke is the book, the first number, 19, is the chapter, and the second number, 1, is the verse. Younger students and visitors may need assistance.*

Is Luke in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (NT) Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke) The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospels. In these books, we can hear about the life of Jesus, as He walked on this earth, from four different authors.

Older students: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called Synoptic Gospels because they cover many of the same events, but the authors wrote through different perspectives. When you read all three books, plus John, you can best understand Jesus' life and ministry on earth.

Timeline: *Point out the period on the classroom Bible timeline. Remind students that all lessons of the Bible connect together to form one God-sized timeline.*

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Can you think of one person in your school or on your sports team who is really hard to like because they cheat, act arrogant, or just seem annoying? Let me introduce you to a man named Zacchaeus.

Scripture Outline: Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus is a rich tax collector

Read Luke 19:1-2

Recap: Zacchaeus was rich. How did he become rich? He was a chief tax collector. What is a tax collector? The Romans had taken over the Jews' country, and they made the Jewish people pay them money. Even though Zacchaeus was Jewish, he worked for the Roman government and took the taxes (money) the Romans made the Jewish people pay. Sometimes the tax collectors would make the people pay even more than what they really owed, and they kept the money for themselves, which is stealing. The Jewish people didn't like the tax collectors, and they didn't like Zacchaeus! What do you think Zacchaeus did when Jesus came to town?

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus

Read Luke 19:3-4

Recap: Remember, people knew about Jesus because of His miracles and His teaching. Zacchaeus must have heard about Jesus, too. He wanted to see Jesus so badly that he climbed up in that tree! Guess what happened when Jesus passed by the tree...

Jesus says He must stay at Zacchaeus' house

Read Luke 19:5-6

Recap: Think about what happened to Zacchaeus. What if you went to a parade and you tried really hard to see a famous person as he rode by? What if he stopped the car he was riding in and called you by name and said he wanted to go to your house to hang out. Wouldn't that be awesome? But this wasn't just a famous person that wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house; this was Jesus, the Savior of the world!

Jesus knew exactly who Zacchaeus was. Even though He knew Zacchaeus did terrible things - he sinned against God and others - Jesus said He must stay at Zacchaeus' house! Do you think Zacchaeus was surprised to hear that? Would you have been surprised? What did Zacchaeus do when Jesus said He must go to his house? (Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly)

How do you think the crowd around them reacted? Listen.

The crowd thinks Jesus is doing something wrong

Read Luke 19:7

Recap: The people thought it was wrong for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus' house, because he was a sinner! But think about it. Weren't they sinners, too? Of course they were, but it doesn't seem like they thought so.

But what did Zacchaeus do? He welcomed Jesus gladly! He believed in Jesus to save him from his sin, and he began to change! How do we know? Listen to this:

Zacchaeus is changed

Read Luke 19:8

Recap: Because Zacchaeus believed in Jesus to save him from his sin, he was changed. He went from a cheating tax collector to someone who paid people back four times more than what he had stolen and gave half of what he had to the poor! That's a big change, isn't it?

Let's say our Think Right verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, to help us remember how Jesus can change us. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Was Zacchaeus a new creation? (Yes!) Just like your Discover Time activity when you changed the _____ (*insert appropriate example*). Listen to what Jesus said to Zacchaeus.

Jesus came to save sinners

Read Luke 19:9-10

Recap: Jesus came to save sinners - just like Zacchaeus and just like you and me.

Conclusion

Zacchaeus is a perfect example of someone who was saved from his sin. He knew he was a sinner who lived his life his way, not God's way. He repented - that means he made the choice to stop living his way and started living God's way. He believed in Jesus to save him from his sin and made Jesus the leader of his life. When he believed in Jesus, Jesus changed him. Jesus made Zacchaeus into a new person - Zacchaeus used to love money, but now he loved God and others, not money.

Do Right and Feel Right

Have you done what Zacchaeus did? Have you repented - made the choice to stop living your way and start living God's way? Have you believed in Jesus to save you from your sin and made Him the leader of your life? If you have, then Jesus has made you into a new person. You are part of God's family, and you have victory over sin. Does your life show that you've changed, like Zacchaeus did? It should! *Leaders can share a personal example of how Jesus has changed you and allow the class to share brief examples, too.*

Even though Jesus changes us when He saves us, that doesn't mean we will never sin again. Because of God's love for us and our love for Him, when we sin, it hurts our relationship with God, kind of like when you do something that hurts or makes your mom or dad angry. We confess our sins to restore - or make right - our broken relationship. When we admit, confess, and repent, it shows we've changed, and we want to live a life that is right before God!

What if you haven't believed in Jesus like Zacchaeus did? Remember our Think Right verse? *Recite 2 Corinthians 5:17 together.* God loves you even though you are a sinner. He sent Jesus to die for your sin so you can be part of His eternal family. Will you make the choice today to believe in Jesus? If you do, then Jesus will change you, too. Just like Zacchaeus, it will be the best change ever! Let's make sure you know exactly what Jesus did for you. *Share the Gospel through the Wordless Book and give an invitation for salvation.*

End-of-Class Review Game: What did we discover today?

1. Who was Zacchaeus? (He was a rich tax collector)
2. What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus? (He climbed a tree)
3. What happened when Jesus passed by Zacchaeus? (Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down and that He must stay at his house)
4. What did Zacchaeus do when Jesus said He must go to his house? (He came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly)
5. Why did the people think it was wrong for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus' house? (Because Zacchaeus was a sinner)
6. How did Zacchaeus show that Jesus had changed him? (He paid back four times more than what he had stolen and gave half of what he had to the poor)
7. Did Jesus say that Zacchaeus had been saved from his sin? (Yes)
8. Why did Jesus say He had come to earth? (To seek and to save what was lost)
9. Recite our Think Right verse, 2 Corinthians 5:17, which tells us how Jesus can change us. ("Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17)
10. Is Jesus changing you? Give an example.