

Preschool (3 and 4 year olds)

Lesson 3

Luke 19:1-10

Know Right:	Jesus changes Zacchaeus.
Think Right:	“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6 (DL Top 12)
Do Right:	I will be changed by Jesus.
Feel Right:	I can feel happy 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: Pray that the children in your class will understand and remember this lesson for the rest of their life.

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:

- By this point of the year, most children should be able to sit quietly and upright during lessons. Children should also know to raise their hands if they have questions.
- The five-count can be used to gain attention, starting with the number one and slowly counting to five. “One....two....three....” Your goal is for children to be quiet and focused on you by three.

Creative Ideas for the Bible Lesson:

1. Black light flannelgraph: use a black light and lower regular lighting to bring the focus onto the flannelgraph. Remember, for safety and security rooms cannot be totally dark.
2. Bring in a small plant for a tree, a box for a house, and use action figures with Bible-time clothing to teach your lesson.

Note: Save the Zacchaeus action figure and small plant for the Review Lesson.

GO!

Pre-Service Review Game

Worship Leaders will lead children in a review game. Game details are in the appendix*.

**Included with a DL membership.*

Large Group Opening Time

Offering: We are going to worship God right now by giving our money. When we give our money to God, the church will use it to tell others about Jesus. *Or insert a specific way your church will use the offering.*

Think Right verse: John 14:6

The last two weeks we've been learning a verse from the book of John, chapter 14, verse 6. Does anyone know this verse? *Read the verse from your Bible.* Now, let's say it together with our hand motions.

"Jesus answered (point to the palm of each hand), **'I am the way** (arms come straight down from elbows like "robot arms") **and the truth** (both arms out like a "T") **and the life** (two thumbs up). **No one** (shake finger) **comes to the Father** (point up) **except through me** (other pointer finger up)." **John 14:6**

What is the only way to heaven? (Believing in Jesus) Are you sure He is the only way? (Yes!) Let's stand up and say our verse one more time with confidence.

Transition: Jesus is the way and the truth and the life! It is only through Jesus that we can be saved from our sin and go to heaven. Jesus really does love each one of you.

Song 1: "Jesus Loves Me"

Puppet Skit: What happened to Fuzzy?

Prop: Empty jar with a stick and a small cotton ball rolled on it and a second empty jar with a stick and butterfly in it. Optional: Show pictures of a caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly.

(Tracker comes up sobbing - make it funny)

WL: Tracker! What's wrong? Here, here's a tissue. *(WL puts it by his nose. Tracker makes a loud nose-blowing noise. WL looks at the tissue, makes a disgusted face, and then sets it down.)*

T: Thanks, _____. I'm really, really, REALLY sad!

WL: Oh, Tracker! Why are you so sad?

T: Cuz...cuz of Fuzzy! *(sobs again and puts his head on his arm)*

WL: Umm, who is Fuzzy?

T: Fuzzy is my...my...my *(sobs again)*

WL: Here, Tracker. *(wipe under Tracker's eyes with the tissue)* Ok, you were saying?

T: Fuzzy is my caterpillar! He's so cute an' little, but somebody stealed him! They prob'ly wanted a cute caterpillar, so they came an' stealed him an' then left me a dumb ol' cotton ball.

WL: A cotton ball?

T: Yeah! Fuzzy was green an' black with yellow fuzzy thingies all over, an' that goofy cotton ball is just white!

WL: Hmmmm.....Tracker, where is this "cotton ball"? *(looks into the jar carefully)*

T: It's hangin' on a stick in Fuzzy's cage. Why?

WL: Well, actually, Tracker I think I can tell you exactly what happened to Fuzzy.

T: You can? Will I get 'em back? Did someone take 'em?

WL: *(examine the jar with the stick in it)* I am happy to tell you that Fuzzy has not been taken; Fuzzy is just changing!

T: Whatcha talkin' about, _____?

WL: Fuzzy isn't missing. Fuzzy is inside that cotton ball!

T: What? Who put 'em inside a cotton ball? And whaddya mean he's changin'?

WL: *(laughing)* Nobody put Fuzzy inside that cotton ball, and yes, he's changing. God made caterpillars very special.

T: Well, I already know that; my Fuzzy is super special.

WL: Special in a different way. Fuzzy is changing right now – in his cocoon. That's what the cotton ball is! In a few days, he'll be a whole new creation!

T: Huh?

WL: Caterpillars become butterflies – they don't stay caterpillars. God made them to change. Fuzzy is becoming a butterfly!

T: Really?

WL: Really!

T: Oh wowzers! Okay, _____. Thank you! I'll watch the jar real closely to see when my Fuzzy turns into a butterfly! See ya later! *(duck down into the house)*

WL: See you later, Tracker!

T: *(switch jars to have a butterfly in it; pop back up and show jar)* Look! He changed into a butterfly. He changed, he changed!!!!

WL: *(show children the beautiful butterfly and highlight how he changed.)* How wonderful, Tracker!

T: I'm so excited! I gotta hurry home and show Cami!

WL: Bye, Tracker!

T: Bye! I wanna call my grandma, too, and tell her that my caterpillar changed into a butterfly!

Transition: Just like a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, we can change, too. But it's not our bodies, it's our hearts that change, and Jesus is the One that changes us. When that happens, we can celebrate!

Song 2: "Hosanna Rock"

Pray

Bible Lesson Introduction

Pray: *When class begins, encourage children to bow their heads out of respect for God, fold their hands so they are not tempted to distract others, and close their eyes so their minds will be focused on God.*

Find It: Our lesson today comes from the Book of Luke, which is in the New Testament of the Bible. *Open your Bible to Luke and show it to the class.*

Timeline: Let's look at our timeline. Where on our timeline can we find Jesus serving, healing, and loving people?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Today, Tracker had a pet caterpillar. What happened to his pet? (It changed!) Let's learn more about how we can be changed in today's Bible lesson.

Scripture Outline: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus comes to Jericho

Paraphrase of Luke 19:1:

Jesus walked through a town called Jericho. Many people in Jericho knew about Jesus. They heard about how He healed people, how wise He was, and that He was the One God promised to send to save them! I have a feeling they were very excited to see Him.

Zacchaeus is a rich tax collector

Paraphrase of Luke 19:2:

When Jesus was passing through the town, a man named Zacchaeus was there. He was very rich. He became rich because he collected taxes from the people. Taxes are money for the government. But Zacchaeus didn't just collect money for taxes; he also collected extra money for himself. That is not good at all, is it? (No!) That is called stealing, and stealing is a sin. No one liked Zacchaeus, because he stole money from them.

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus

Read Luke 19:3

Recap: Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus! But Zacchaeus had a problem: he was very short! Do you know what it feels like to be very short? *Preschoolers will identify with this!* He couldn't see over the crowd. So, Zacchaeus had an idea. Let's find out what the idea was by reading about it in my Bible!

Zacchaeus climbs a tree

Read Luke 19:4

Recap: Zacchaeus climbed right up that tree! Let's pretend to climb up a tree and look for Jesus. Zacchaeus knew that Jesus was someone he wanted to see. He knew Jesus was very different than anyone else in the whole world! Zacchaeus was right!

Jesus tells Zacchaeus He must stay at his house

Read Luke 19:5-6

Recap: Jesus saw Zacchaeus and wanted to go to his house! Wow, this is so exciting.

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. Let's pretend to climb down from the tree with a big smile on our face.

Remember, the people didn't like Zacchaeus, because he took their money. Let's find out how they felt when Jesus went to his house.

The crowd mutters about Jesus being the guest of a “sinner”

Read Luke 19:7

Recap: All the people around thought that it was wrong for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus’ house, because he stole their money. They thought Zacchaeus was worse than they were! Was he? He did steal their money, right? But what does Romans 3:23 say? *Have children say this verse with you: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Every one of those people was a sinner just like Zacchaeus! Let’s keep reading and find out what happened next.

Zacchaeus is changed

Read Luke 19:8

Recap: Zacchaeus knew he needed Jesus to save him from his sin and to change how he acted. Because of Jesus, Zacchaeus changed! He gave half of what he had to the poor! And, to every person he stole money from, he paid them back four times what he had stolen! He was no longer a cheating tax collector. Jesus made a big change in Zacchaeus, didn’t He? Zacchaeus changed from wanting to do what was wrong, to wanting to do what was right.

Listen to what Jesus said to Zacchaeus.

Jesus came to save sinners

Paraphrase of Luke 19:9-10:

Jesus said that Zacchaeus was saved from his sin. He also said that anyone who wants to be changed can believe in Him, even people like us.

Conclusion

Zacchaeus was saved from his sin. He knew he was a sinner (*dark page of the Wordless Book*). He made the choice to believe in Jesus (*red page*). When Zacchaeus believed in Jesus, Jesus saved him from the punishment for his sin (*clean page*), and Jesus changed him (*clean page*). Jesus made Zacchaeus into a new person. Zacchaeus used to lie, cheat, and steal—he used to love money, but now Zacchaeus loved God and others more than money (*green page*).

Do Right and Feel Right

When you believe in Jesus, you change! You are a child of God. Jesus is your friend, and He is with you. You have the Holy Spirit to help you become more like Jesus. Instead of fighting with your brother or sister, you can share. Or, if your mom asks you to do something, instead of talking back, you can do what she says. Maybe you have a neighbor that is mean to you. Instead of being mean back, you can love that person by being kind. Jesus changes people, and He can change you!

Review Questions: What did we discover today?

1. Was Zacchaeus a farmer or a rich tax collector? (He was a rich tax collector)
2. Was Zacchaeus short or tall? (Short)
3. What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus? (A tree)
4. Did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to come down and that He wanted to stay at his house? (Yes)
5. What did Zacchaeus do when Jesus said He must go to his house? Did he come down or did he stay up in the tree? (He came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly)
6. How did Zacchaeus show that Jesus had changed him? Did he pay back the money or did he keep the money he took? (He paid back the money)
7. Did Jesus say that Zacchaeus had been saved from his sin? (Yes)

Discover Time

Transition to Discover Time:

When we choose to follow Jesus, He **changes** what we think about, what we talk about, and what we do so we can be more like Him. In our Discover Time today, we are going to see something **change**.

Do Right: I will be changed by Jesus.

Goal: To help the preschoolers better understand that they can be **changed** by Jesus.

Location A: Water Station

Supplies:

- Animal growing capsules (small capsules that change when placed in water)
<https://www.amazon.com/Magic-Capsules-various-themes-package/dp/B000096R2E>

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Have children sit in a circle as you go through the following questions.
 - What happened to Zacchaeus after he met Jesus? (He changed)
 - When he changed, was he different on the inside or the outside? (The inside)
 - How did he change on the inside? (He became a follower of Jesus and he loved people by giving half of what he had to the poor and by repaying the money he stole from people)
 - What if I only had two of these special capsules that turn into animals? Should we share? (Yes)
 - What if I gave one to _____ and one to _____? Should the other children become jealous? (No) Or should someone steal them? (No) What is the right thing to do? (To share)
2. Give the capsules to two children and have them drop the capsules into water. Allow all the children to watch patiently.
 - What would you do if I told you that I have a special capsule for each of you? (Celebrate and say thank you!)
 - Wow, I think you all are starting to **change** and do what is right! This is what Zacchaeus did when he believed in Jesus; he **changed**. Let's go and put our capsules in the water and see if they change.
3. Allow children to place the capsules in the water and watch them change into animals.

Location B: Food Station

Supplies:

- Clear pitchers (one for each group of 4-6 children)
- Large spoons (one for each group of 4-6 children)
- Milk (four cups for each group of 4-6 children; pour the milk into each pitcher) – *check for allergies*
- Chocolate powdered drink mix such as Nesquik (pre-portion powder to make four cups of chocolate milk; set aside until children ask for it) – *check for allergies*
- 8 oz. cups (one per child)

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide class into groups of 4-6 children and assign a leader to each group.
2. Have each group sit down around a pitcher and look at the items.
3. Ask children how we can **change** this plain milk into chocolate milk. Children should say that they need to add chocolate! Prompt them if necessary.
4. Give the pre-portioned chocolate powder to each group. Mix ingredients together and encourage children to help stir and watch the ingredients **change** from plain milk into chocolate milk.
5. After it has **changed** into chocolate milk, allow the children to drink it.
6. Remind them that when we know Jesus as our Savior, He **changes** us!

Classroom Review Time

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

What **changed** in our Discover Time today? When we believe in Jesus, we **change** - not in the way we look, but how we live, what we say, and our attitude. Jesus **changes** us, and we become different.

Reviewing the Know Right:

Supplies:

- Paper Zacchaeus
- Create a tall tree on the wall or on a large whiteboard or bulletin board

Instructions:

1. Ask the Lesson Review questions several times (as time permits).
2. Every time a child answers a question correctly, have Zacchaeus climb part way up the tree. Your goal is to get Zacchaeus to the highest branch.

Think Right Activity while waiting for parents:

Supplies:

- Gold coins
- Worship song "The Life"

Instructions:

1. Have children sit in a circle. Give a gold coin to several children.
2. When the music starts, have children pass the coins around the circle.
3. When the music stops, children with coins should stand up and say John 14:6 with the leaders.
4. Repeat the activity until all children have been picked up.