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## MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

Zacchaeus

**LUKE 19:1-10**

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## BIBLE WORDS

"A friend loves you all the time."

**PROVERBS 17:17, NCV**

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## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

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## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.

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The toddler curriculum provides one monthly Bible Story because we understand that toddlers learn best through repetition. The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos. We hope that by sending home a simple toddler craft, you are cueing families to begin having conversations at home with their children.

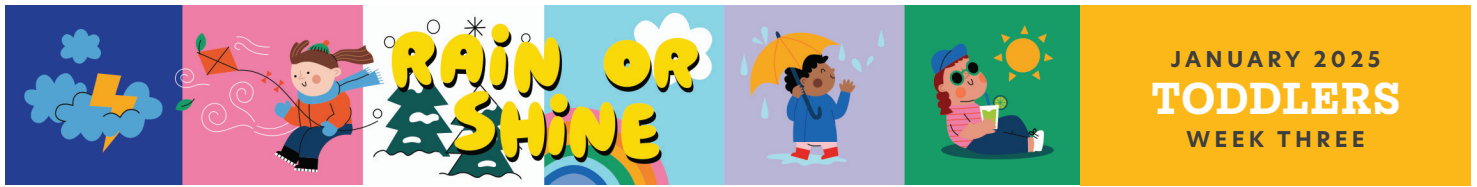
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## STORY TIME:

- Draw It

## CRAFT TIME:

- Fill the Tree
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## STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Preschool Bible, butcher paper, and washable markers

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) is about a man named Zacchaeus. (*Draw a stick man Zacchaeus on the butcher paper.*)

"One day, Jesus (*draw a stick man Jesus*) came to town, and everyone was so happy to see Him. (*Draw lots of smiling faces.*) Even Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus was too short to see over all the people, so he climbed a tree. And guess what? (*Draw a picture of a tree with stick man Zacchaeus in it.*) Zacchaeus saw Jesus, and Jesus saw him! (*Draw a stick man Jesus next to the tree.*) Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down because Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house. (*Draw stick man Jesus next to stick man Zacchaeus.*) Jesus was such a good friend to Zacchaeus that Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. (*Draw a heart between them.*) Zacchaeus had made a bad choice and took money that wasn't his, so to love like Jesus, he gave back all the money he had taken! (*Draw a stick man Zacchaeus giving money to the people with happy faces.*) Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend.**"



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## CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Fill the Tree" Activity Page; cardstock; green, washable ink pads; craft sticks; masking tape; baby wipes; scissors; and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Fill the Tree" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to fill in the treetop with their fingerprint. Clean hands as needed. Tape each child's picture to the top of their craft stick.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look! There's Zacchaeus in the tree. Let's fill in the treetop. Press your fingertip on the ink pad, then on your paper. *(Pause.)* Keep going, and fill the treetop. *(Pause.)* Great job! *(Clean hands as needed.)* Let's tape him to the top of a craft stick. *(Tape.)* Hold Zacchaeus high in the air! *(Pause.)* Now Zacchaeus can see Jesus and Jesus can see Zacchaeus. Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, and Jesus will be a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend.**"