



**MONTHLY
BIBLE STORY**

Zacchaeus

LUKE 19:1-10

BIBLE WORDS

"A friend loves you all the time."

PROVERBS 17:17, NCV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is always a good friend.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be
my friend forever.

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.

STORY TIME:

- Tell It

CRAFT TIME:

- Zacchaeus in 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

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*) begins with a man named Zacchaeus and the time that Jesus came to town.

"Everyone was so happy that Jesus was coming—even Zacchaeus! When Jesus got there, everyone crowded around Him. Zacchaeus was small and couldn't see over the crowd, so he climbed a tree and now he could see Jesus! Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and told him to come down because Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus was such a good friend to Zacchaeus that Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. Zacchaeus had made a bad choice and taken money that wasn't his, so to love like Jesus, he gave back all the money he had taken! 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: "Tree" and "Zacchaeus in the Tree" Activity Pages, cardstock, green dot markers, glue sticks, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to fill in the tree with the markers. Help children rub glue on the back of the Zacchaeus cutout and press it in the tree. Clean hands as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's color the tree on your paper with the markers. Fill the treetop. (Pause.) Great! Zacchaeus climbed up in a tree to see Jesus because he couldn't see over the crowd of people. Let's rub some glue on the back of this picture of Zacchaeus and glue him to the tree. (Pause.) Super-duper! Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and told him to come down so they could go to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus, so Zacchaeus wanted to love people the way Jesus loved him. Jesus is a good friend to you and me too, because **Jesus is always a good friend!**"