

Lesson 2 Jesus Always Loves Us

Choose from the options listed below to follow Adventure Trails that lead to Jesus:

Discovery Trails

- TEACHER FEATURE** (5 min.)
Loved or Unloved
- BIBLE STORY** (10 min.)
Jesus Loves and Forgives (Elementary)
Zacchaeus Meets Jesus (Preschool)
- NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS** (5 min.)
No One Likes Me
- BIBLE MEMORY** (5 min.)
Lined-Up Words

Worship Trails

- SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS** (10 min.)
- SHARE AND PRAYER** (5 min.)
Name Hearts

Wildlife Trails

- SNACK SHACK** (5 min.)
Heart Treats
- CAMPSITE CAPERS** (15 min.)
Show Love to Zacchaeus (Elementary)
Friend-to-Friend Game (Preschool)
- COZY CAVE CRAFTS** (15 min.)
Jesus and I Love You Card (Elementary)
Zacchaeus Flap Picture (Preschool)

Happy Trails

- CLOSING ACTIVITIES** (5 minutes)
- OVERTIME ACTIVITIES** (as needed)

one brand-new and still in the wrapper, one that is used but still in excellent condition, and one that the kids would like but has been well used and looks it (baseball glove, doll, sentimental childhood toy, etc.). Take time to talk about each toy. Encourage the kids to talk about the advantages of each.

Now you get to vote by raising your hand for the toy that is the one you would love to have as your very own. You may vote only for one toy. On the board write Toy 1, Toy 2, and Toy 3. Hold up the first toy and let the kids vote. Count the number of hands, and write the total on the board. Do the same with the second and third toys.

Wow, I can see most of you really loved toy number __. Hold up the toy. What made you really want this toy? Let volunteers share. **The second most popular toy was __.** Hold up that toy. **Why did some of you vote for this one?** Give the kids time to express their answer.

Hold up the last toy. If any children voted for it, ask them why. Some children may have wanted it, but not as much as the other toys. **Why did you not vote for this toy?** Let the kids talk about why they didn't like it as much as the other choices. **I like this toy very much. Here's why.** Explain the uniqueness of the item and why it is special to you.

People often do what you just did. We look at the outside of something—what it looks like—and decide if we like it or not. I'm glad Jesus doesn't do that. Jesus looks on the inside. He loves everyone. He loves us even when no one else does.

At this time, you can have one or two Park Patrol members assist you by taking the preschool children to the area where they will listen to their Bible story. They will return to the group after the Bible story for the puppet skit and to learn the Bible memory verse.

ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY

Jesus Loves and Forgives (Luke 19:1-10)

Supplies: Bible, microphone or a cardboard tube

DISCOVERY TRAILS

TEACHER FEATURE

Loved or Unloved

Supplies: Three toys—one brand-new (still in the wrapper), one in great condition, and one in poor condition

Today I brought in three toys to show you. I want you to vote on which one you would rather have. Hold up or pass around the three items:

covered in foil to serve as a microphone, (Optional: Bible-time clothes)

Preparation: Ask a Park Patrol member to play Zacchaeus, wearing Bible-time clothes, if available. Practice ahead of time.

Show the children where the story of Zacchaeus is found in your Bible—Luke 19. Invite the children to listen carefully to the Bible story “newscast.” Hold the microphone as you talk.

Reporter: **Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining me for this late-breaking news story. We’re here in the city of Jericho, where something very strange has just happened. Today Jesus was passing through town. Our eyewitnesses say that a man actually climbed up into this sycamore tree to see Jesus.** Motion to a pretend tree next to you. **We have that man with us right now.** Zacchaeus enters. **Sir, please tell us your name and what you do.**

Zacchaeus: **I’m Zacchaeus, and I’m a tax collector. I collect money from people to give to the government.**

Reporter: **Mr. Zacchaeus, I happen to know that tax collectors like you are allowed to collect whatever amount of money they want and keep the extra money for themselves. That’s kind of like stealing, isn’t it?** Zacchaeus hangs his head and sadly shakes it yes. **You aren’t very well loved by the people are you?** Zacchaeus shakes his head no.

Reporter: **Well sir, please tell us why you climbed the tree.**

Zacchaeus: **I’m short and I couldn’t see over all the people in front of me.**

Reporter: **Our witnesses report that Jesus stopped right under the spot where you were and talked to you. Could you tell us what Jesus said?**

Zacchaeus: **Jesus said He wanted to come to my house.**

Reporter: **You are telling us that Jesus actually went to the home of the most unloved person in Jericho?** Zacchaeus nods yes. **I understand you’ve had a change of heart now because Jesus forgave you. What have you done?**

Zacchaeus: **I’ve given back all the extra money I stole from people.**

Reporter: **What a truly amazing change in the life of this tax collector! Jesus showed His love to someone who was definitely unloved. Jesus forgave this tax collector for stealing money. And look how it changed Zacchaeus’s life. Thanks for watching our newscast.**

What was Zacchaeus’s life like? (*He wasn’t loved because he took too much of people’s money when collecting taxes.*) **How did Zacchaeus’s life change?** (*Jesus loved him and forgave him; Zacchaeus gave back all the money he took unfairly.*)

PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus (Luke 19:1-10)

Supplies: Bible

Our story today comes from the part of the Bible called Luke. Show the children Luke 19 in your Bible.

The Bible tells us about a man named Zacchaeus. He was very short. Motion a very short person by putting your hand down low to the floor. Invite the children to do it too, and to do it again every time you say “Zacchaeus” during the story.

Zacchaeus (put your hand low to the floor) **was a tax collector. He collected money. Sometimes he took too much money. He kept the extra money. People didn’t like Zacchaeus** (put hand low) **because he took too much money.**

One day Zacchaeus (put hand low) **heard that Jesus was in town. Zacchaeus** (put hand low) **wanted to see Jesus. He had heard many things about Jesus. Zacchaeus** (put hand low) **went to where Jesus was going to walk along the road. But he couldn’t see over the tall people who were already there, lining the sides of the road. How would he see Jesus?**

Zacchaeus (put hand low) **looked around. He ran over to a sycamore tree and climbed up on a branch. Now Zacchaeus** (put hand low) **could see over the people. He was just in time. Jesus was coming!**

When Jesus reached the sycamore tree, He stopped and looked up. Jesus said, “Zacchaeus, (put hand low) come down right away. I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus (put hand low) climbed down from the tree. He was happy Jesus wanted to visit his house. But when people saw Jesus going to Zacchaeus’s (put hand low) house, they were angry. “Why is Jesus visiting him? He is not a good man. He takes too much money.”

But even though Zacchaeus (put hand low) had done wrong, Jesus loved and forgave Zacchaeus (put hand low). Zacchaeus (put hand low) was sorry for the wrong things he had done. He said, “Jesus, I have not been good. I’ll give the people back their money—and some extra, too!”

Jesus showed His love to Zacchaeus (put hand low). Zacchaeus (put hand low) showed Jesus’ love to others.

Who was the short man? (Zacchaeus.) What did he do? (He took too much money from people. He wanted to see Jesus so he climbed a tree.) What did Jesus do? (He showed His love for Zacchaeus by going to his house.)

NOAH’S PARK PUPPETS

No One Likes Me

Today’s puppet skit is found on page GP-69 of the Noah’s Park *Puppet Skits Book*. As the Park Patrol gets the puppet skit ready, have the children stand and play Follow the Leader to get to the puppet area. Use simple directions, such as hop on one foot, march like a marching band, walk backward, and so on.

BIBLE MEMORY

Lined-Up Words

Supplies: Index cards, pen

Preparation: In large, clear letters, print each word of the verse on an index card. Keep the cards in order.

Choose a Bible verse for the children to memorize. You may want to use the same verse taught to the kids in Sunday school or find a verse that corresponds to today’s Bible story.

Use the Ponder puppet to “learn” the verse along with the children. Have the puppet take the first index card and hold it up. Lead the class in reading it aloud. Repeat with all the cards.

Then let the puppet give out the index cards to the children. Let the children with cards come to the front and arrange themselves in the correct order. Have all the children, led by the puppet, read the verse together. Let the children give their cards to other children and play again.

Jesus always loves us. When we feel unloved, Jesus still loves us. When we do something wrong, Jesus still loves us. Just as Jesus forgave Zacchaeus in the Bible story, Jesus can forgive us, too. Let’s sing praises to Jesus, who loves us and forgives us!

WORSHIP TRAINS



SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS

Supplies: Noah’s Park CD and CD player

Introduce the Unit 8 Song, “Be a Friend,” from the Noah’s Park CD. The words are found on page G-270 of this *Leader’s Guide*. First play the song and let the children listen. Then read the words of the song to the kids. Stop after each verse and talk about the meaning of the song and how it relates to today’s lesson. As time permits, sing additional songs about today’s Bible story (Zacchaeus) or today’s lesson on Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

SHARE AND PRAYER

Name Hearts

Supplies: Red construction paper, scissors, hole punch, pencils, yarn

Preparation: Cut four-inch hearts from red construction paper, one for each child. Punch a hole in the top of each heart. Cut yarn in six-inch lengths, and tie one piece through each hole to form a loop.

Jesus wants us to know that He loves us all the time. One way He shows His love is by giving us people who love us. Let’s name the people

who we know really love us. Write children's answers on the board. They might suggest parents, grandparents, other relatives, teachers, friends, and so on. Include Jesus' name.

What can we do to remember that so many people love us? Let's write them down in a place where we can see them each day! Hand out the hearts and pencils. **Let's see how full your heart can be with the names of people who love you. Be sure to start with Jesus' name.**

Allow a couple of minutes for children to write. Have the Park Patrol on hand to help the younger children with spelling and writing. Older children may check their spelling against the names on the board.

Divide the children into groups for a short prayer time. Begin the prayer time with, "Thank You, Jesus, for . . ." and then have the children go around their circles and name one name on their hearts. Then they continue around the circle saying more names that they wrote down, until every name has been prayed for.

Your heart can remind you of how much you are loved and how much Jesus loves you. He loves you all the time. Think about where you might hang your heart at home this week where you'll see it each day. Be sure the children have their own names somewhere on their hearts. Collect the Name Hearts until the end of class.

WILDLIFE TRAILS



Have the Park Patrol help the preschoolers and elementary-age kids get to their separate activities.

SNACK SHACK

Heart Treats

Today's lesson-related snack is found on page GS-69 of the Noah's Park *Snacks and Games Book*. The children may need to wash their hands after snack time.

CAMPSITE CAPERS

Show Love to Zacchaeus (Elem.)

Friend-to-Friend Game (Preschool)

The elementary-age children will play the game, "Show Love to Zacchaeus." Directions are on page GS-69 of the *Snacks and Games Book*. You will need a large open area for this game. The preschoolers will be playing the "Friend-to-Friend Game," found on page GS-70 of the *Snacks and Games Book*.

COZY CAVE CRAFTS

Jesus and I Love You Card (Elem.)

Zacchaeus Flap Picture (Preschool)

Today's preschool craft is a "Zacchaeus Flap Picture." Patterns and directions are found on page GC-70 in the *Craft Book*. The elementary craft is called "Jesus and I Love You Card" and can be found on page GC-69 in the *Craft Book*. Be sure the children put their names on their projects and have a place to set their crafts when completed.

HAPPY TRAILS



CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Have the children devote the last few minutes of class time to cleaning up the room.

As time permits, review the Bible memory verse. The children may even look it up in their Bibles. You may also want to let the children reenact the Bible story newscast again.

As they leave, have the children take their Name Hearts from Share and Prayer and their crafts with them.

OVERTIME ACTIVITIES

While waiting for parents to arrive for their children, you may want to provide several of the Noah's Park books for the children to look at and read. For information on available Noah's Park products call 1-800-323-7543 or visit our web site at www.cookministries.com.