

Lesson Five — Part One

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10; I Thessalonians 5:22; I Peter 3:11.

Lesson Aim: To learn about a man who wanted to see Jesus so badly that he climbed up in a tree.

Bible Words: ... Follow that which is good ... (I Thessalonians 5:15).

Pre-Class: The picture-to-color for this lesson shows Zacchaeus sitting in a tree. As the children color, tell them the man's name is Zacchaeus, but *do not* tell them why he is in the tree. If they ask, assure them you will tell them more about Zacchaeus during the Bible lesson.

If some of them have climbed trees, they might want to tell you about it. Allow them to do so, but remind them that climbing trees can be dangerous and should only be attempted if Mom and Dad are around to help.

As always, have a finished picture for them to look at, for ideas, while coloring theirs. When it is time for class to begin, label the pictures and take them up until **Closing**.

Attendance And Welcome: Before class remove from the workbooks, Attendance Charts No. 2, and the punch-outs showing cats around a bowl of milk.

The chart shows two pictures of a boy. In one picture the boy is pulling the tail of a cat and in the other one the boy is sitting on the porch holding his ball. Glue the punch-outs next to the boy with the ball. After the children have finished adding their punch-outs (bowl of milk and cats) ask them which picture shows the boy being good and which one shows him *not* being good. Tell them that God wants all of us to be nice to animals and pulling a cat's tail is *not* being nice. It hurts the cat and makes it cry, as the one in the picture is doing. Each week they will add other cats to the charts.

Follow the same routine as before. By now they should all know **The Welcome Song** and should be able to help you sing it.

Bible Lesson: For the lesson you will need the visuals for **Lesson Five** and your Bible.

I am so glad you came to Bible class today to learn more about Jesus. Hold up your Bible. The Bible has lots of good lessons in it. Before class I gave you a picture to color of a man in a tree. Do you remember the man's name? His name is Zacchaeus. Can you help me say Zacchaeus? Everyone say Zacchaeus. That is very good. Now please listen while I tell you why Zacchaeus was in a tree.

Show picture #1. *Jesus was coming to the town where Zacchaeus lived. Many people had heard of Jesus and they were following Him into town. Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus, too. He wanted to see Him.*

Show picture #2. *Zacchaeus was not very tall and he could not see over the taller people. He ran on ahead of the crowd.*

Show picture #3. *Zacchaeus had an idea. There was a tree nearby. He thought to himself, "If I can climb up in that tree, I will be able to see Jesus." So Zacchaeus climbed up in the tree.*

Show picture #4. *Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Jesus said, "Hurry and come down, Zacchaeus, and I will go to your house with you."*

Show picture #5. *Zacchaeus quickly climbed down from the tree. He was happy to have Jesus go home with him.*

Next time I will tell you what happened when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house.

Songs: You will need the song charts from the previous lessons and **Zacchaeus Was A Little Man**. You have new Bible words for today. Be sure to change the **Bible Words** song chart.

Sing **The Bible**, **The Bible** and **Do Good To All** first, then the Zacchaeus song and **Bible Words**. Sing **The Prayer Song** last, followed by a prayer, thanking God for the Bible which teaches us about Jesus.

Application Lesson: Do the following action poem. When the poem begins everyone is standing.

If Jesus came to my house
to sit and talk with me.
(*Everyone sit down.*)

I would be so happy
(*Have a big smile on your face.*)
I would shout with glee.
(*Everyone shout, "Hooray!"*)

I would serve Him milk and cookies.
(*Stand up and pretend to be serving.*)

Chocolate chip would do.

I wonder how many He would eat.
(*Put hand to head as in thought.*)

Would it be one or two?
(*Hold up one and then two fingers.*)

After doing the poem, let the children tell what else they would do if Jesus came to their house.

Take-Home: Remove the pictures for **Lesson Five** and the punch-outs of Zacchaeus from the workbooks. Complete one to show as an example.

Give each child a picture. *Look at the picture. Something is missing from the picture.* If they do not notice the missing part, point it out to them. *What do you think is missing? This is what is missing.* Give each child a punch-out. *Zacchaeus is missing from the picture.*

Assist each one in gluing the punch-outs to the pictures. As they work, ask questions about the lesson. Label the pictures and take them up until **Closing** time.

Bible Lesson Review: Show picture #3. Sing the Zacchaeus song. Remind them that next week you will tell them some more about Zacchaeus' visit with Jesus.

Repeat the Bible words.

Put the picture for this lesson on the review board. It will be used again next week.

Closing: Return all papers and personal belongings to the children. Let them know you love them and are glad they were in Bible class today. Invite all visitors to return again.

Other Ideas:

1. After saying the poem during the **Application Lesson**, serve milk and cookies to everyone.
2. Look for a storybook that might teach manners or how to behave when visitors come. Read the book to the children and discuss it.
3. Bring a ladder to class. Put a cut-out of a tree in front of it and let the children take turns climbing the "tree" (ladder) as Zacchaeus did. Be sure and hold their hands while they climb.
4. Using brown paper, make a tree to hang in the classroom. Let the children add leaves cut from green paper.