

Zacchaeus: Lesson 3

SuperTruth: Jesus changes my life and makes it new.

SuperVerse: *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

Bible Story: Luke 19:1–10

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Have you ever heard someone say, “Some people never change”? This is not true for anyone who belongs to Jesus! Zacchaeus found this out, first hand!

- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to ancient Jericho, where they meet Zacchaeus. People despise him for being a tax collector for Rome, so they are amazed when Jesus reaches out to him, and Zacchaeus is saved and transformed. The children learn that Jesus came to seek and save every lost person.
- Let’s watch the Signposts video to see how Jesus connected with Zacchaeus. Through this encounter, we can better understand how Jesus wants to be with us.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Change Brings Change (15 minutes)

Objective: *Play a game about Zacchaeus’s new life.*

- God’s power changed Zacchaeus from a dishonest, greedy man into a thankful, caring, giving man. His new life had begun! He demonstrated his new beginnings by giving to the poor and to those he had cheated. That is what this game is about: change and change.

Game Instructions:

- Players will take 3 coins which represent the tax money that he collected. Players will walk backwards to the first box, which represents Zacchaeus’s home. You will place one coin on the box that Zacchaeus earned for being a tax collector. You will then hop on one foot to the second box and leave a coin. This box represents the poor. Next, you will walk by sliding sideways to the third box and place a coin on it. This box represents the people who Zacchaeus cheated.

Teaching: One to One (15 minutes)

Objective: *Discuss how Jesus wants to be with us now and forever.*

- The people didn’t believe Jesus would or should talk with Zacchaeus. Imagine how shocked they were when Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus’s home! Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The craft is the Coin Pouch and Coins. The challenge is found on Coin #5 and Coin #6.

SuperVerse: Superbook Correction (5 minutes)

Objective: *Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.*

- Zacchaeus was a changed man with new goals and desires. Everyone who heard him speak that day knew something miraculous had happened!
- As children cover their eyes, use the list to change one word of the SuperVerse on the board to alter the meaning of the verse, then have the children look at the board and raise their hands to tell you what word should be fixed. Write in the correct word, then repeat the process.

Prayer: New Life Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: *Communicate with God.*

- Jesus has not changed. What He did in the Bible, He still does today. He is ready to give you a fresh start and a new beginning.
- I am going to read a prayer now. After I read a section, I will pause to allow you to repeat it if you are ready to follow Jesus and make Him your Lord and Savior. I would like everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Relay Game: Play a game with “changes.” | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Review Activity: Play a game to review the Bible story. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Maze Activity: Trace routes from the sycamore-fig tree to Zacchaeus’s home. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Activity: Look up verses about our changed life in Christ. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Coins; one type—pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters; 6 coins per child plus extras
- 6 medium size boxes or chairs
- Optional: painters tape or masking tape
- Two plastic bowls or containers
- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Bible or Superbook Bible app

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Two Signpost Coins
 - Two sheets of cardstock or paper
 - Scissors
 - Optional: tape
 - Bibles or the Superbook Bible App
- Discipleship Challenge Materials:
- Coin Pouch Page, Coin Page, and Yarn for any children who missed Lessons 1 and 2
 - Sample craft made in Lesson 1
 - Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App