

Jesus Loves Everyone

Bible Basis: Luke 19:1-10

Who was Zacchaeus that Jesus took the time to talk to him up in the tree and then to go spend time at his house? Was he tall and good-looking? We know that's not true. Was he a popular celebrity? Quite the contrary: Tax collectors were hated by almost everyone in Jewish culture. So why did Zacchaeus rate so much of Jesus' precious time? Why did Jesus leave the adoring crowds behind and go with Zacchaeus to enjoy a meal with him? Because Jesus loved the one who many others saw as unlovable.

Jesus' love for us doesn't depend on how beautiful, smart, or popular we are; Jesus loves us in spite of who we are. He loves us no matter what. And that's a great thought to give the little ones in your class!

Jesus Loves Everyone

Lesson	Emphasis	Page
6	Jesus loves everyone.	75
7	Jesus loves everyone, and we love Jesus.	89
8	Jesus loves everyone, and we love others.	103
9	I'm glad that Jesus loves everyone.	115

Parent Page

Jesus Loves Everyone

For the next four weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that Jesus loves everyone. They'll hear how meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart and life forever. The children will use their five senses to discover that Jesus' love is for *every* child and grown-up in the world!

Tips for Toddlers & 2s

Tattered teddies and scruffy blankets follow many toddlers like well-worn shadows. What's the attraction? Love! Even toddlers are able to express unconditional love through "patchwork friends." New bears, old bears—a toddler loves them all, just as Jesus loves all people! So run to the attic or trunk, dig out your beloved bears and blankies, and joyously explain how Jesus loves everyone all the time!

Together Time

- Make pretty coin-rubbing pictures with your child. Place a coin under a sheet of white paper, and then lightly color over the coin with a crayon. As you make your rubbings, explain that Jesus knows each of us is different just like coins are different—and that Jesus loves all of us! Be sure to put the coins away when you've finished.
- At bedtime, let your child choose two stuffed friends to snuggle with. Ask your child why he or she especially likes those cuddly friends. Point out that Jesus loves all people even though we're different.
- Sing the following action song with your child. Do the motions in parentheses as you sing.

Climb Up the Tree

(sung to the tune of "Three Blind Mice")

Climb up the tree. *(Make climbing motions.)*

Climb up the tree. *(Make climbing motions.)*

Who do you see? *(Shield your eyes and look around.)*

Who do you see? *(Shield your eyes and look around.)*

Jesus is standing below the tree. *(Point to the ground.)*

Jesus loves you, and he loves me. *(Point to your child; then point to yourself.)*

Jesus loves ev'ryone we see. *(Shield your eyes and look around.)*

Climb down the tree. *(Make climbing motions.)*



Bible Point ▶

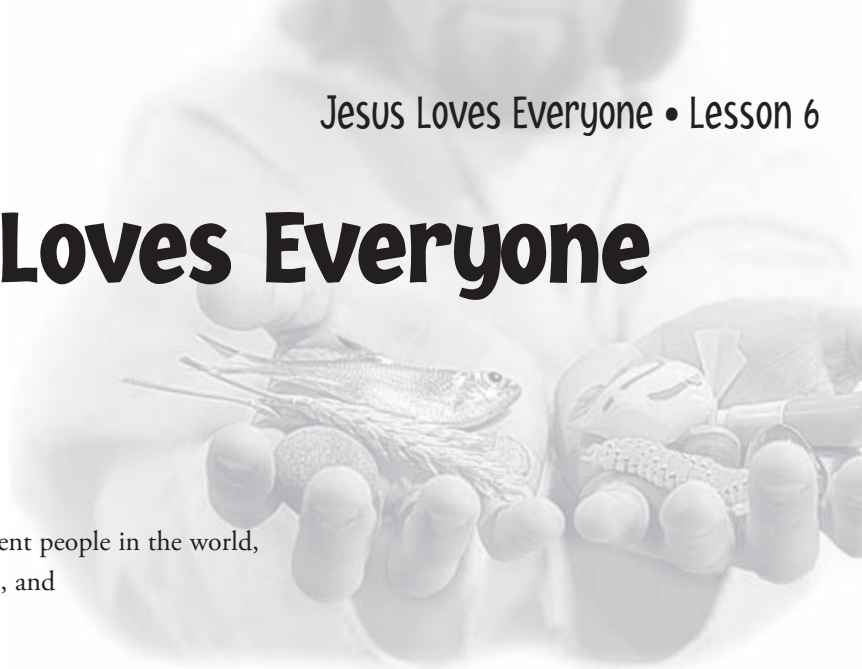
Jesus Loves Everyone

Bible Verse

Jesus loves us (adapted from John 3:16).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that there are many different people in the world,
 - realize that Jesus loves everyone, and
 - thank God for Jesus' love.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus loves everyone.

**Luke
19:1-10**



Although we hear and tell the story of Zacchaeus often, we seldom realize its full significance. It occurred at the end of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem, near the end of his ministry. It is seen by some as the climax of Jesus' ministry, a supreme example of salvation being offered to the less-than-desirable.

Jesus took decisive action in reaching out to Zacchaeus, which resulted in Zacchaeus' joyful repentance. The story is a wonderful reminder that Jesus loves everyone and came to save everyone!













Prayer

- Read Romans 3:23.
- How would you rate yourself against Zacchaeus? How do you think Jesus would rate you?
- What is your reaction to the fact that Jesus loves everyone?
- Pray: Lord, please help me to remember that you love everyone and came to save everyone. Help me convey your love to my class by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	 
	Option 1: Little Loves —Play with and care for a variety of stuffed-animal friends.	Stuffed animals, doll blankets, combs and brushes, boxes, play dishes	
	Option 2: People Trees —“Plant” unusual trees, and learn that there are lots of different people in the world.	People patterns (pp. 86-87), craft sticks, tape, paper cups, crayons, scissors	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Loves Everyone —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10.	Bananas, plastic knife, wet wipes	 
	I Love Jesus —Sing an action song about their love for Jesus.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Who Does Jesus Love? —Guess and act out different occupations; then sing a song.	Occupation patterns (p. 88), scissors, tape, CD player	 
	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	People patterns (pp. 86-87), scissors, tape, crayons or markers, light blue and green construction paper	
	Sing It Out —Sing an action song about their love for Jesus.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make funny friends with craft foam balls.	Feet patterns (p. 86), stiff paper, craft foam balls, markers, scissors, glue	
	Bible Game —Toss a foam ball to their friends.	Foam ball friend from Bible Craft	
 Closing	Delicious 'n' Different —Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Chocolate chips or M&M's candies, cereal loops, a paper sack, napkins	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “Jesus Loves Us” (adapted from John 3:16) (track 9) from the *CD* as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus loves everyone.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.



Option 1: Little Loves

SUPPLIES: stuffed animals, doll blankets, combs and brushes, boxes, play dishes

Set up a housekeeping area in a corner of the room. Provide a variety of stuffed animals or dolls, play dishes, combs and brushes, doll blankets, and boxes to use as beds. As children arrive, invite them to care for the pretend friends by “feeding” them, caring for their “hair,” and “tucking” them into pretend beds. Join in the play, and make comments such as “Caring for friends is a good way to show our love” and “Jesus loves and cares for us all the time.” Explain that today’s Bible story is about a man named Zacchaeus and how Jesus loved him. Point out that ► **Jesus loves everyone.**



Option 2: People Trees

SUPPLIES: people patterns (pp. 86-87), craft sticks, tape, paper cups, crayons, scissors

Make enough photocopies of the people patterns for each child to have at least three paper people. For quick preparation, stack the photocopied pages and cut out several patterns at once.

Set out the craft sticks, paper cups, tape, crayons, and the people cutouts. Invite children to make “people trees” by scribble-coloring the cutouts and then taping each picture on a craft stick. Let toddlers also color the paper cups if they wish. Then help children each turn over their paper cups and poke the ends of their craft sticks through the bottom on the paper cups. Tape the craft sticks in place. As children work, explain that there are lots of people in the world just like there are lots of paper people on their craft sticks. Explain that Jesus loves all the people in the world. Tell children that today’s Bible story is about a man who climbed a tree to see Jesus because he heard that

► **Jesus loves everyone.**

Be sure children’s names are on their cups.



■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.**

**Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.**

**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.**

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who loves everyone? ► Jesus loves everyone. How do we know that? The Bible tells us. The Bible tells us that ► Jesus loves us and everyone. Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”**



**This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!**

(Repeat.)
Bible!

**teacher
tips**

Understanding Your Toddlers and 2s’ Communication Development

Toddlers and 2s...

- engage in simple dramatic play.
- use 50 to 100 recognizable words.
- put together two or more words to make a sentence.
- constantly ask “What’s that?”
- refer to themselves by name.
- can point to and identify parts of the body and pictures of familiar objects.



**teacher
tips**

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

■ Bible Story: Jesus Loves Everyone

SUPPLIES: bananas, plastic knife, wet wipes

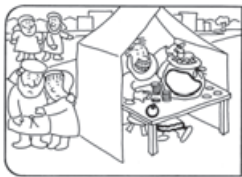


Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard figures by following the assembly instructions included in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s.

Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.



Panel 1



Set the bananas, the punch-out coins, and the figure of Zacchaeus (za-KEE-us) beside you. Fold back the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 1. Say: **We're going to hear a Bible story and learn that ► Jesus loves everyone.** Point to the picture of Zacchaeus. **This is Zacchaeus. Let's say his name together. Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus lived in the town of**

Jericho. Zacchaeus wasn't very big or tall—he was short. Stand up and show me how tall you can be. Stretch your arms in the air and stand on tiptoe. **That's tall! Now squat low and show me how short you can be.** Pause. **That's short!**

Zacchaeus wasn't big or tall, but he was mean. Show me a growly face. Pause. **Zacchaeus collected money from people for taxes. But Zacchaeus stole some of the money and put it in his moneybag. That wasn't nice at all!** Shake your finger and encourage toddlers to say, "No, no, Zacchaeus." **Zacchaeus used the money to buy rich clothes and things. Let's touch Zacchaeus' robe.** Hold the StoryBoard so children can touch the robe.

Zacchaeus took the people's money and kept it in his moneybag. We can touch a coin and the moneybag. Let children take turns touching the moneybag and the coin on the StoryBoard table.

Hold up the punch-out coins. Say: **Let's count pretend coins.** Hold up the coins one at a time. Encourage children to count aloud and hold up their fingers as you count.

Say: **Zacchaeus took the people's money and didn't share at all. None of the people liked Zacchaeus. No sirree!** Shake your head. **Then one day, someone special came to town. Let's find out who came to see Zacchaeus!**

Panel 2



Open the StoryBoard to reveal Panel 2. Point to the picture of Jesus and say: **Jesus came to town! Let's clap to show how happy we are to see Jesus!** Pause. **We can touch Jesus' beard.** Have toddlers each touch Jesus' beard.

Ask: • **How does Jesus' beard feel?** (Soft; nice.)

Say: **Everyone loved Jesus—but nobody liked Zacchaeus.**

Hold up the figure of Zacchaeus. **Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see above the crowd. Guess what Zacchaeus did? He climbed a tree to peek at Jesus!** Make the figure "climb" the tree and hide in the treetop. **Now Zacchaeus was tall enough to see Jesus! Let's touch the tree and peek at Zacchaeus.** Let children each touch the tree bark and peek in the treetop.



If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.

Then ask: **Can you stand like tall trees?** Encourage toddlers to stand and stretch their arms out like tree branches.

Say: **Ooh, look at all the “trees” here today! So tall and straight. Now turn into pretend leaves and float quietly to the ground.** Pause while children sit.

Jesus stood under the tree and looked up. Jesus said:

“Zacchaeus, come down right away. (*Look up and make a beckoning motion with your finger.*)

I’m going to your house today!” (*“Walk” your fingers across your palm.*)

Encourage children to repeat the rhyme with you once more.

Say: **All the people were so surprised! They didn’t like Zacchaeus. They thought Jesus shouldn’t like him either! But Jesus loved Zacchaeus because** **▶ *Jesus loves everyone!* So Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree.** Gently remove the figure of Zacchaeus from the treetop and hold it beside Jesus on Panel 2. **Let’s see where Jesus and Zacchaeus went.**

Panel 3



Open the StoryBoard to Panel 3. Say: **Look. Jesus and Zacchaeus are eating at Zacchaeus’ house. What do you think Jesus and Zacchaeus are having for dinner? They’re having fruit, and we can smell how yummy it is.** Let children each scratch and sniff the fruit sticker in the bowl on Panel 3.

Ask: • **How does the fruit smell?** (Good; I want some.)

Hold up the bananas and say: **We can eat fruit like Jesus and Zacchaeus.** Peel the bananas and hand each child a piece to eat.

Ask: • **What kind of fruit is this?** (Bananas.)

• **What color are bananas?** (Yellow.)

• **How do bananas taste?** (Yummy; I like them.)

Say: **Zacchaeus was surprised that Jesus loved him. But we know that** **▶ *Jesus loves everyone.* And we love Jesus, too. We can touch Jesus’ beard and say, “I love you, Jesus.”** Have children touch Jesus’ beard, and help them each say, “I love you, Jesus.”

Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus loved him! Zacchaeus felt sorry for all the bad things he’d done, so he gave back the money he’d taken from people. Let’s help Zacchaeus give back the coins. Have children jingle the moneybag. Then help them pretend to place a punch-out coin in Jesus’ hand.

Jesus loved Zacchaeus even when other people didn’t. That’s because **▶ *Jesus loves everyone.* Let’s sing a song about Jesus’ love and how much we love him.**

■ I Love Jesus

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “I Love Jesus” (track 8) to the tune of “Jesus Loves Me.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



BIBLE POINT ▶



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



BIBLE POINT ▶



BIBLE POINT ▶



I love Jesus; he loves me. (*Point at yourself and then upward.*)
Jesus is my friend, you see. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)
Young and old and big and small (*stand tall, and then squat down*),
I know Jesus loves us all. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone (*stretch your arms out wide*),
And we love Jesus, too. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

(Repeat.)



Say: **Think of all the different people in the world. Tall people, short people like Zacchaeus, old people, children, babies—and Jesus loves them all! ► Jesus loves everyone! That means that anyone who believes in Jesus will live with him in heaven someday. Isn't it wonderful that ► Jesus loves everyone?**



Bible Activities

Who Does Jesus Love?

SUPPLIES: occupation patterns (p. 88), scissors, tape, CD player



Before class, photocopy and cut out the occupation patterns.

Say: **We've been learning that Jesus loves Zacchaeus, and that ► Jesus loves everyone! Little Bear is going to help us think of people Jesus loves.**

Use the *toy bear* to help you lead a game. Turn your back to the class and tape one of the occupation pictures to the *toy bear*. Then lead the class in reciting the following phrase: **Little Bear, Little Bear, who does Jesus love?**

Turn around to reveal the *toy bear* with the occupation picture attached to it. Encourage the class to identify the occupation. Then help children form pairs, and let partners act out that occupation. Then turn your back again and tape a different picture to the bear. After children have guessed and acted out each of the occupations, have everyone sit in a circle on the floor with you.

Say: ► **Jesus loves everyone! He loves all of the people who do the jobs we just acted out.**

Ask: • **Who else does Jesus love?** (Me; my mom; my friends; my grandma.)

• **Why does Jesus love everyone?** (Because he's nice; because he made us.)

Say: ► **Jesus loves everyone! He loves all of the people we just mentioned and everyone else in the whole world! Let's sing a song about how much Jesus loves us!** Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Us" (adapted from John 3:16) (track 9) to the tune of "This Old Man." For extra fun, do the actions in parentheses.





Jesus loves (*cross arms over chest*)
You and me. (*Point to another and then to self.*)
I'm as happy (*clap hands*)
As can be! (*Clap hands.*)

Up, down (*stand on tiptoe, and then crouch down*),
All around (*spin around*),
Jesus loves us all (*cross arms over chest*),
Young and old and big and small. (*Spread arms wide.*)

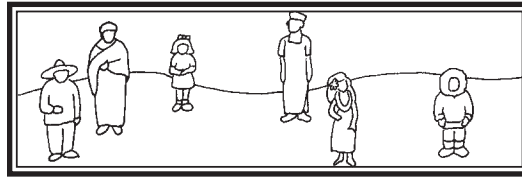
(Repeat.)

Say: **Thanks for that singing! Let's put lots of different people on our bulletin board to show that ▶ Jesus loves everyone!**



■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: people patterns (pp. 86-87), scissors, tape, crayons or markers, light blue and green construction paper



Before class, cover the top half of the bulletin board with light blue construction paper and the lower half with green construction paper. Photocopy the people patterns. Color the patterns, and then cut them out. Be sure there's a paper person for each child in class. The people cutouts will be removed from the bulletin board in Lesson 8, so using removable tape is recommended.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. When you've finished the script, put Cuddles away, out of sight of the children.

Cuddles: Hello, boys and girls! I'm so glad to see you! Can I give you each a cuddly hug or two? (*Have Cuddles give the children each a warm snuggle.*)

Teacher: That was nice, Cuddles!

Cuddles: Well, I have a hug for you, too! A big cuddly hug-a-roo! (*Have Cuddles give you a big hug.*)

Teacher: My, my! You're certainly full of snuggles today, Cuddles!

Cuddles: That's because I love you all so much!

Teacher: That's very nice. We love you, too. We've been learning about someone who loves all the people in the world.



Cuddles: Everyone? In the whole world? *Who* loves everyone?

Teacher: Children, who loves everyone? (*Help children tell Cuddles that ► Jesus loves everyone.*)
We're going to put paper people on the bulletin board to show that Jesus loves us.
Would you like to help, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Yes, please!

Have Cuddles hand each child a cutout. Let children tape their paper people in place on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a cutout, help him or her repeat the Bible Point. Then point out how the people are alike and different. Mention that all the people have eyes, noses, and mouths but that they're different sizes and are wearing different clothes. Remind children that ► Jesus loves everyone.

Teacher: Let's sing our song about Jesus' love and how much we love him, too.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing "I Love Jesus" (track 8) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Do the motions as you sing.



I love Jesus; he loves me. (*Point at yourself and then upward.*)
Jesus is my friend, you see. (*Cover your heart with your hands.*)
Young and old and big and small (*stand tall, and then squat down*),
I know Jesus loves us all. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone. (*Stretch your arms out wide.*)
Jesus loves ev'ryone (*stretch your arms out wide*),
And we love Jesus, too. (*Point around the room at everyone.*)

(Repeat.)

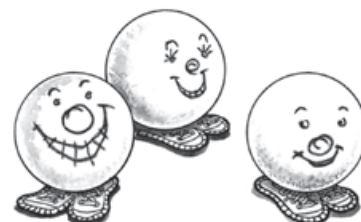
Say: **Let's make lots of pretend people to remind us that ► Jesus loves everyone.**



■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: feet patterns (p. 86), markers, scissors, glue, craft foam balls, stiff paper

Before this activity, make photocopies of the feet patterns onto stiff paper. Cut out a pair of "feet" for each child. Set out a craft foam ball for each child. Make an extra foam person before class to use as an example and to use later in the Bible Game.



Set out the paper feet and markers. Let each child choose a foam ball. Help children use markers to draw eyes, noses, and mouths on their balls to make funny “friends.” Be sure to write children’s names on the balls. Allow children to decorate their feet cutouts with markers. Then help each child attach a pair of paper feet by gluing the foam ball to the cutout. As children work, point out that all people look different just as the foam friends are different. Remind them that ► *Jesus loves everyone.*

When the foam friends are finished, say: **Your foam ball friends look so nice! Let’s set them aside to dry while we play a fun game!** Set the foam friends aside to dry.

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: foam ball friend from Bible Craft

Have children sit in a large circle. Say: **We’re going to play a game with this foam ball friend.** Hold up the foam friend you made before class. **I’ll toss this foam friend over to someone. If it comes to you, hold it and say, ► “*Jesus loves everyone.*”** Then you can gently toss the foam friend to someone else.

Let children take turns gently tossing the foam ball friend to others around the circle. When everyone has had a turn, have children say, ► *“Jesus loves everyone!”*

Say: **It’s fun to play with friends we love. Now let’s go with our friends over to the snack table.**

Closing

■ Delicious ’n’ Different

SUPPLIES: chocolate chips or M&M’s candies, cereal loops, a paper sack, napkins

Before class, mix cereal loops and chocolate chips or M&M’s candies in a paper sack.

After children wash their hands, gather everyone at the snack table.

Ask: • **Who loves everyone?** (Jesus!)

Say: **We’ve been learning that ► *Jesus loves everyone.* Even though we’re all different, Jesus loves each one of us, just as he loved Zacchaeus. Isn’t that wonderful? Let’s say a prayer and thank God for Jesus’ love. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for Jesus’ love. We love him, too. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Hand each child a napkin with a handful of snack mix. Say: **See if you can put your snack mix into piles of cereal and chocolate chips.** Pause while children sort their treats. **Look at how each piece is different. People are different, too, but ► *Jesus loves everyone.* And we like our treats—so let’s gobble them up!**

When children have finished, remind them to throw their napkins in the wastebasket. Be sure children take home their foam friends along with their “people trees” if they chose to do Option 2.





Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Parent Page” handout (p. 74) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module’s topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Serious Cereal Snackin’*

Have bowls of different cereals to look at and taste. Choose cereals that have different shapes, colors, textures, and tastes. Let children choose several pieces of cereal from each of the bowls; then discuss some of the differences and similarities of the cereals. Point out that, just like the cereals, people have similarities and differences but that ► Jesus loves everyone.

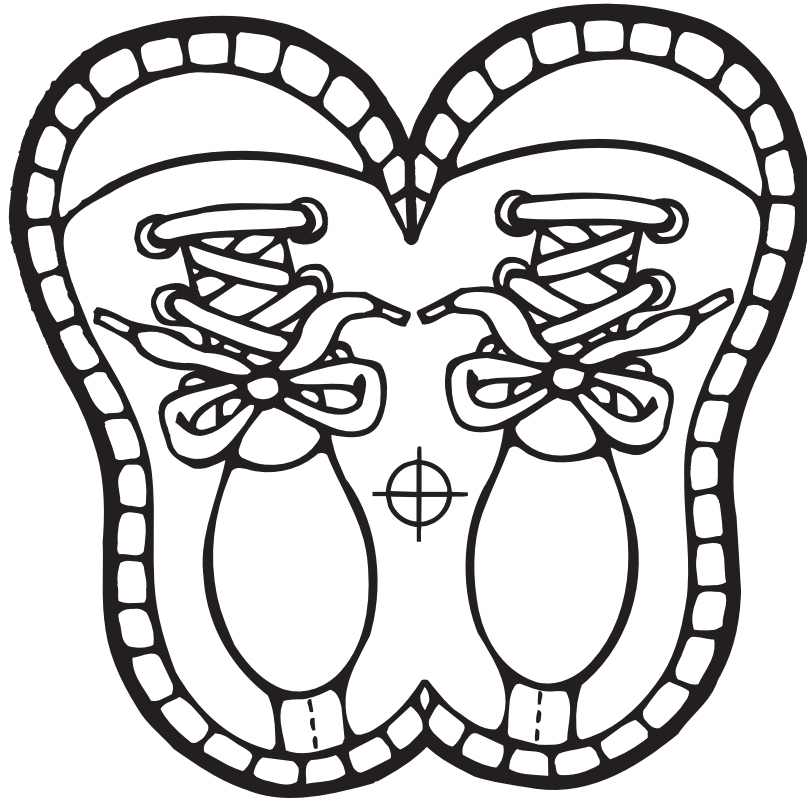


■ *Around the World*

Have the children sit in a large circle. Roll a playground ball “around the world.” When the ball is rolled to a child, have that child stand up and run around the circle holding the ball. As he or she sits down, have the class repeat the Bible Point. Then the child may roll the ball to someone else. Be sure each child gets a turn to pop up and run around the circle. Remind children that ► Jesus loves everyone around the world.

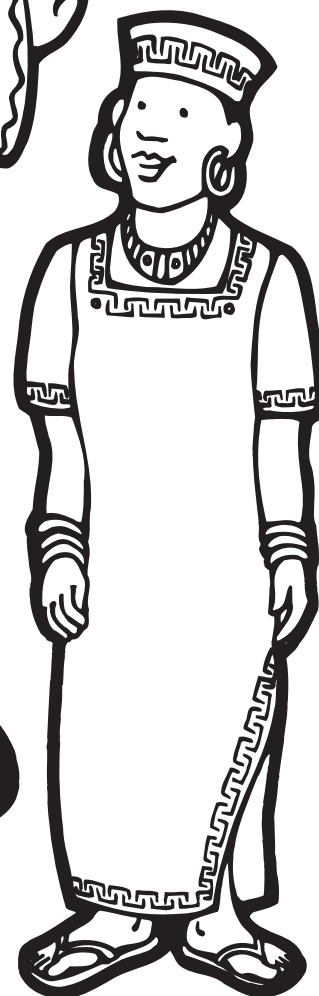
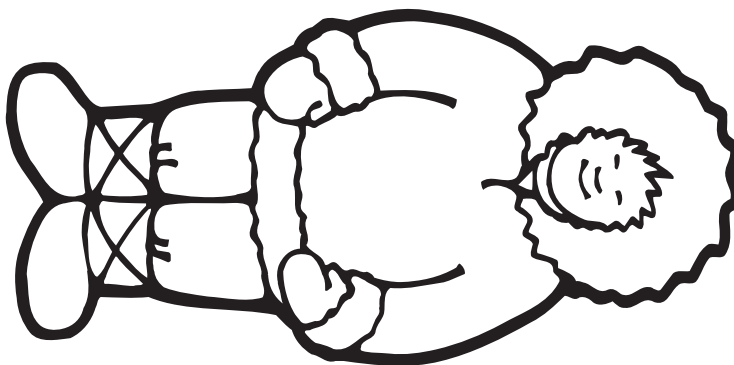
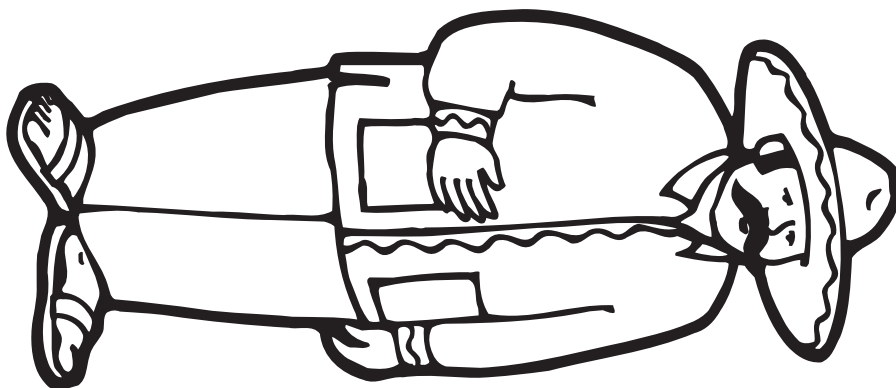
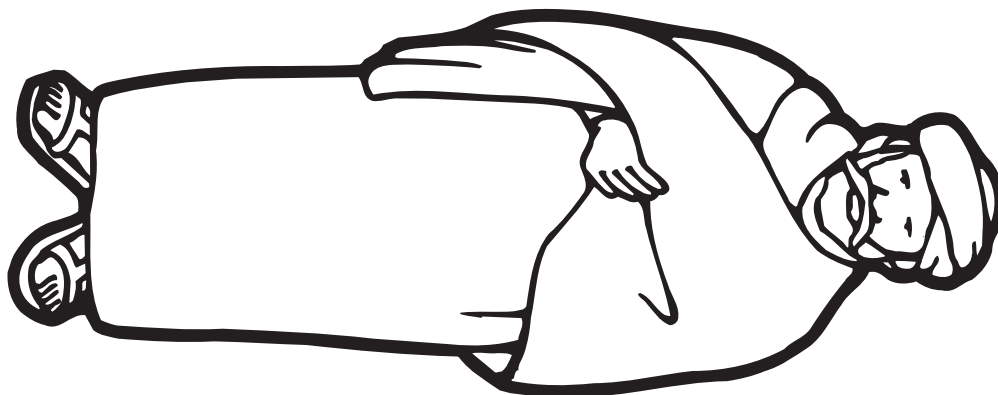
Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.



Patterns

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