

Zaccheus - Self-Control & Goodness

Scripture Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 God gave us his Spirit. The Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves.

Beliefs: When I understand God's expectations I can have joy while obeying them, even when they are hard.

Actions: I am able to have more self-control and do good things for myself and others with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Materials

*additional passage versions items to hang up high
& reference passages are
included at the end of the
lesson plan

Large Group Worship - 15 minutes

2 songs as closely related in theme as possible

- Zaccheus was a Wee Little Man
- Family Service Project Info
- Small Group Challenge: Raise your hand if you worked on your verse this week and you know it in your heart!!
 - Awesome! I'm excited to find out how many people learned it this week!!! Be sure to update the graph in your room.
- Review Fruit of the Spirit
- Dismiss to small groups.

Luke 19:1-10 (NIRV)

19 1-4 Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

5-7 When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

8 Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

9-10 Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

Luke 19:1-10 (MSG)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. 3 Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.

5 Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." 6 So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

8 But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. 10 The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

Opening Illustration - 5 minutes: Height Challenges

- place multiple objects higher than students are able to reach
- encourage students to problem solve to safely retrieve the items

Teaching

- Review last week's lesson:
- Say - We've studied one bible happening about a group of Christians in Macedonia who received love and joy from the Holy Spirit and showed it by giving generously from what little they had. Then we heard about Peter who did not give money to the man who asked for it, but instead healed him in the power of Jesus. Last week we learned another happening with Peter about when he got put in prison and days later an angel broke him out while his church was praying for him! They had some serious faithfulness as well as patience and peace.
- Say - This week we're going to finish with a true event that some of you may remember from when you were really little. Zaccheus! Let's open our bibles to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 19.
- Set the scene for the children - Zaccheus is a Jew working for the Romans as a tax collector. The Romans are in charge of Israel at this time so the Jews have to send money to the Roman government. Often tax collectors would charge more money than the person actually owed to Rome and keep the extra. The Romans didn't care, but it made their fellow countrymen angry at them, rightfully so. The Jewish religious leaders said the tax collectors were "unclean" because they worked with the Romans. This meant they could not testify in court and were not allowed to hang out with the other Jews, including going to church. This is Zaccheus's job.

- Read the story in full.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. 3 Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.

Tweens:

Do you think Zaccheus stole from the people or was he guilty by association?

5 Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." 6 So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

8 But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. 10 The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

- Ask - Where do we find Zaccheus? Jericho in a tree
- Ask - Why was he there? he had heard Jesus was coming and he wanted to see him, but he was short so had to get higher
- Ask - Why do you think he wanted to see Jesus? accept answers
- Ask - Who spoke first, Jesus or Zaccheus? Jesus
- Ask - Why does that matter? it means Jesus knew Zaccheus was there, already knew his name, and wanted to hang out with him
- Say - It was against the church rules for Jesus to hang out with Zaccheus, especially to stay at his house because he was considered unclean as a tax collector.
 - Ask - What are the 3 rules that Jesus replaced the hundreds of rules with? love God, love people, love yourself
 - Ask - Was Jesus concerned with following the old rules he came to fulfill or was he concerned with showing people the new way to do things? new rules, he was showing that being loving to others was more important than the old rules
 - Ask - Are you a rule follower or a rule bender? How would you have felt if you were a Jew who was really good at knowing and following the rules then Jesus comes and changes everything? accept answers
- Ask - What is Zaccheus's response to Jesus speaking to him? welcomed Jesus, promised to give back what he'd stolen PLUS 4x more. That means if he took \$10 too much from you he'd pay you back \$40.
- Ask - What do you think of verses 9 and 10?

9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. 10 The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."

 - Say - This verse makes it sound like Zaccheus repenting of stealing the money and being generous in repaying the people brought him salvation.
 - Ask - What else do you think it could mean? 1) he was saved because he was a Jew (member of Abraham's line), 2) he chose Jesus, 3) his behavior changed after he believed and chose Jesus, 4) Jesus came for the people who needed help and were hurt, not just those who were already "good," 5) there was certainly more conversation between Jesus and Zaccheus that is included in the passage by Luke
- Ask - Do you see the characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit in Zaccheus's life before he met Jesus on the road? accept answers
 - Which characteristics do you see after he meets and chooses Jesus? accept answer - emphasize self-control and goodness

Scripture Memory Verse

- Spend a few moments creating motions or a rhythm to go with the bible verse.
 - **Session Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7**
God gave us his Spirit. The Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves.
 - **Unit Verse: Galatians 5:22-23**
But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.

Application Activities - 20 minutes:

Game: Simon Says

One person is designated Simon, the others are the players. Standing in front of the group, Simon tells players what they must do. However, the players must only obey commands that begin with the words "Simon Says."

If Simon says, "Simon says touch your nose," then players must touch their nose. But, if Simon simply says, "jump," *without* first saying "Simon says," players must not jump. Those that do jump are out.

Project: Self Control Circles

Large circle write the things you cannot control. Small circle write the things you can control.

Wrap Up

- Say - So far we've learned about love, joy, gentleness, kindness, peace, patience, and faithfulness.
- Say - Next week we will learn the last 3 characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit. I'm excited to hear how the Spirit helps you this week.
- Be sure to send home their Family Page and Personal Study materials.

Family Component

-

Personal Study

-

Related Sources:

Additional Passages

Main Teaching Passage: