

Zaccheus - Self-Control & Goodness

Scripture Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIRV abbreviated) God gave us his Spirit. The Spirit gives us power and love and 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

white male peg - Jesus

purple felt - Zacchaeus' house

small peg - Zacchaeus

gold coins - money

tree - tree

misc people - crowd

Large Group Worship - 15 minutes

Main Passage: Luke 19:1-10

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

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

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

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."

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

Setting the Tone

Remind the children of the Fruit of the Spirit Tree by laying it on the floor in your story circle or setting your circle cushions out so that you are sitting next to where it hangs on the wall. Pass the bag containing the fruit pieces around the circle instructing each child to take one out and hold it.

- Say - In this unit we are going to be hearing true happenings from the Bible where God's people lived in a way that showed they loved him. We know this because they showed their God Fruit. Who knows what God Fruit is? accept answers
- Say - (open your bible to Galatians) In the book of Galatians Paul says this, "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."
- Say - Our God Fruit, or Spirit Fruit, is the kind of things we DO when we are letting the Holy Spirit be our Boss, helping us to live the way God wants us to live - the best way!
- Say - Let's go around the circle to see which characteristic of God's Fruit we're each holding.
- Do - go around the circle, reading each child's characteristic. Have the child stick it to the tree as theirs is read.
- Ask - Who can tell me what characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit Peter and the Church showed while he was in prison? faithfulness, patience, and peace
- Ask - Who would like to take them off of the tree and put them with the story box? (do it)
- Ask - Can anyone remember which characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit Peter and John showed to the man in our Bible Happening last week? gentleness and kindness
- Ask - Who would like to take Gentleness and Kindness from the tree and put them with the box? (do it)
- Ask - Hmm, can anyone remember which characteristics the Macedonian Church showed when they gave money to help the others? joy and love
- Say - That's so great! You are all such good learners! Who would like to put joy and love with that box?
- Let's quickly remember those Bible Happening.

Review

Do - Lay out all the pieces for the final part of the week 1's story (Corinthian & Macedonian churches)

Do - Indicate correct pieces where text is underlined and italicized

Say - Paul wrote a letter to the Christians of the churches in Corinth. Some of the letter was about how much joy and love the Christians of the churches in Macedonia had when they gave to support the missionaries even when they didn't have very much money.

Paul encouraged the Corinthians telling them they were doing so good at a lot of things like: faith, knowledge, and telling people about Jesus. He also said they had started off really well at collecting money to send to the missionaries, but then they stopped. Paul encouraged them to

finish what they had started and to show love to others in that way trusting that the Holy Spirit would give them joy because of it. (pointing out the Macedonians had it)

Say - That is such a wonderful bible happening and I'm so glad Paul wrote about it so that we could know that story too! The churches showed love and felt joy didn't they?! Now let's remember what happen with Peter and John in the temple courtyard.

Do - Lay out all the pieces for the final part of the week 2's story (Peter & John healing the man who couldn't walk)

Do - Indicate correct pieces where text is underlined and italicized

Say - One afternoon Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray like they did alot. This time though something special happened. A man who had been born unable to walk noticed them and asked them for money. Peter and John were poor and didn't have any money, but Peter said he would give the many what he did have. What did he have? He had the power of Jesus in him to do miracles in Jesus' name! So Peter told them man, "In the name of Jesus Christ get up and walk." And the man did!! The man began praising God, jumping up and walking and for the first time got to go into the Temple area to go praise God and pray there. All the people around noticed him and were amazed!

Say - That is another amazing bible happening that I'm glad God tells us about in his Word. We get to learn from Peter and John's example how to show gentleness and kindness.

- Ask - Do you think Peter was gentle when he helped the man stand up for the very first time?
- Ask - How was he kind?

Do - Lay out all the pieces for the final part of the week 3's story (Peter in prison)

Do - Indicate correct pieces where text is underlined and italicized

Say - King Herod had started punishing the Christians because he realized the Jews liked him more when he did it. He decided that Peter was one of the important leaders of the Christian church so he would arrest and kill him too. But what he forgot about is how powerful God is, especially when people pray for one another. The church was praying for Peter, asking God to work everything out. One night an angel woke Peter up and told him to get up, put on his clothes and coat and the chains fell off of his wrists! Then he walked out and into the city. When Peter went through the gate he realized he was awake, not dreaming, and the angel disappeared! Peter went to Mary's house where the church was praying for him. Rhoda answered the gate but was so excited she left him outside! Finally, they let him in and he got to tell them that their faithfulness had been answered by God with an angelic escape! Peter and the christians had waited with peace and patience for God to work.

Story Telling

- Do - Turn your bible to Luke 19:1-10

Say - What amazing bible happenings! God uses us to do such amazing things with his power! We can have the power of the Holy Spirit in us too and the Spirit will help us to show his love

with our God Fruit. Tonight we are going to hear another bible happening about when a man named Zaccheus gets to meet Jesus and Jesus' love turns his heart from greedy to good. Zaccheus learns self-control too!

Ask & Do - Who would like to get tonight's characteristics of the Fruit from the tree and put them by my bible? self-control, goodness

- Do: Set the scene - put the tree away from the purple felt

Say - One day Jesus was traveling through the city of Jericho. Lots of people had gathered to see him.

- Do - Put people on both sides of Jesus, like the sides of a path.

Say - There was a problem. One of the men there, Zacchaeus, wanted to see Jesus, but he was short and couldn't see over the crowds.

- Do - short peg behind tall pegs trying to see

Say - Finally, he decided to climb tree!

- Do - put Zacchaeus in the tree

Say - When Jesus got to the tree where Zacchaeus was, he looked up and told him, "Zacchaeus, come down! I'm going to stay at your house!" So Zacchaeus climbed down and welcomed Jesus. He was so excited!

- Do - Jesus talks to Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus gets down excitedly

Say - The people in the crowds started grumbling because Jesus chose to hang out with Zacchaeus like he's someone special! But they all knew that Zacchaeus had a job where he collected people's money to pay the government workers. He was a tax collector and back then the Roman government didn't care if their tax collectors took more than they were supposed too. Basically, the government said it was ok for them to steal extra from the people. The people didn't think it was fair that Jesus chose to hang out with a guy who had that job.

- Do - move the people away from Jesus and Zacchaeus to grumble together

Say - Zacchaeus felt so special and loved by Jesus because Jesus knew his name, called him out of the tree, and wanted to hang out with him that he wanted to show the others. Zacchaeus told everyone right there in the street that he was going to give half of all of his stuff to the poor and that if he had stolen anyone's money he would pay it back plus 4 times more! That's like if someone stole your bike, but then felt bad so brought it back and gave you 4 new bikes too.

- Do - Zacchaeus speaks to the crowd

Say - Jesus looked at Zacchaeus and said, "Today you are saved because the Son of Man came to look for and save the lost!"

Say - You were great learners today. I loved studying this Bible Happening about Zacchaeus again. It really made me think about learning to have self-control and use good behaviors toward others.

- I wonder what the people thought when they saw Zacchaeus trying to find a place to see Jesus.
- I wonder how Zacchaeus felt when he realized Jesus was talking to him.
- I wonder what all the people thought when Zacchaeus said he was going to give away so much money.
- I wonder what the people thought when Jesus said Zacchaeus was saved even though he had a job they thought made him a bad guy.

Say - We're going to go to our Reflection Stations so you can keep thinking and the Holy Spirit can keep talking to you.

Reflection Activities - 30 minutes

- **listening station - bible passage, Fruit of the Spirit song**
- **pipe cleaners station**
- **missions station**
- **watercolor painting station**
- **fruit of the spirit tree**
- **prayer station**
- **bible station - marked full bible, marked children's bible**

Memory Verse - 5 minutes

- **Spend a few moments creating motions or a rhythm to go with the bible verse.**
 - Session Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIRV abbreviated)
God gave us his Spirit. The Spirit gives us power and love and helps us control ourselves.
 - Unit Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 (abbreviated from NIRV)
But the fruit the Holy Spirit makes is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having self-control.

Family Component

-

Personal Study

-

Related Sources: