



Life of Christ

Jesus & Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Younger Verse

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Older Verse

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson Goals

Explain how to become a Christian
Show how following Jesus changes your life

Welcome Time

What is a boss? (wait for answers) What does a boss do? (wait for answers)
Today's lesson explains what it means for Jesus to be boss of your life. Listen to the lesson and see if you can explain it.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. Many people wanted to see Him. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus could not see above the people because he was a short man.

Zacc thought of a plan. It seemed kind of strange, but he did something that not many grown-ups do. He ran ahead on the path and climbed a tree. Yes, little short Zacc climbed up a tree! When he got in the tree, he waited for Jesus to walk by.

When Jesus got to the tree, He looked up at Zacc and said, "Zacc come down. I want to visit you at your house today."

Excitedly, Zacchaeus climbed down the tree. He felt glad that Jesus wanted to visit him and that He cared enough to even talk to him. Jesus even knew his name!

The people couldn't believe what Jesus was doing. They told Jesus that Zacc was a mean man. Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector. He collected taxes from people. It's like when you buy candy at the store. You have to pay a little money for taxes to the cashier.

Sometimes, Zacc cheated people and asked for more than was needed. The people had to give him the money—even if he was wrong. This made them very mad at him. They hated him for cheating them.

Jesus loved Zacc. Jesus told him all about who He was. Zacchaeus became a changed person. He let Jesus be the boss of his life. He told Jesus that he would give half of what he owned to the



poor. He would also repay people 4 times what he cheated them. So if he cheated them out of a dollar, he would give them four dollars!

Jesus said, "God loves Zacchaeus. Today he has believed in Jesus and has changed his ways."

Jesus was happy and very glad that Zacc was truthful. He loved Jesus with all his heart and wanted to do the right thing from then on. He wanted to change and be like Jesus. All the people saw that Zacc had changed. They knew that Jesus had made a difference in his life. Zacc no longer cheated people anymore. He followed Jesus and loved others.

Would you like to be changed like Zacchaeus? Jesus can change your life just like He did for Zacc. When we believe in Jesus and ask Him to come into our lives, He changes us into a new person from the inside out. It's like we are a caterpillar before we know Jesus and He makes us into a beautiful butterfly! If you want to know more, talk to me during activity time or snack time.

What do you think? What does it mean for Jesus to be the boss of your life? (wait for answers) We want to do what Jesus would do. We want to be honest and do the right thing. It also means listening to God and talking to Him. We can do this by reading the Bible and praying. How does Jesus become the boss of your life? You simply ask Him to be your boss and tell Him that you will do things His way and not your way. Have you let Jesus be boss of your life?

Use the activities that will help your children apply the lesson to their lives.

Learning Activities

There are several fun ways for the kids to remember today's verse. Use what will help your kids remember it and take it home with them!

Memory Verse Activities

Ask each child to say a sentence prayer. Give them examples like "God help my aunt," or "God I love you," or "Please help me be good." etc.

Prayer Time

If the weather is nice, find a tree and act out the story. Take time to talk about what Zacc did and how his life was different when he met Jesus.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Planning for March 1
Jesus rides a donkey
Mat. 21:1-11