

Bible Point ▶

Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong.

Bible Verse

“Never get tired of doing good” (2 Thessalonians 3:13b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- make Zacchaeus finger puppets,
 - hear how Zacchaeus showed he was sorry,
 - learn to show they’re sorry, and
 - teach Whiskers to say, “I’m sorry.”

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Zacchaeus shows that he is sorry.



Jesus’ visit to Zacchaeus’ house changed Zacchaeus’ life, which is seen in his statement in today’s passage. We don’t know *how* wealthy he was, but giving half of everything to the poor and then four times what he had cheated anyone out of certainly would have greatly depleted his wealth. And what he was giving went far beyond what the law required (see Leviticus 6:5 and Numbers 5:7). Certainly Zacchaeus’ announced actions demonstrated that he was sorry for how he had treated people and that he wanted to make things right.

Preschoolers can be as selfish as Zacchaeus was in the beginning of this story. Through today’s passage and lesson, you can begin to help them see how Jesus wants them to be sorry and to make things right when they sin. Help them begin to understand that following Jesus sometimes means putting aside what we want for ourselves and thinking of what’s best for others.

Prayer

- Read Philippians 2:3-4. How does this passage speak to you today?
- What can your preschoolers learn from this passage?
- Pray: Dear God, help me live a life that puts others first, even when...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary 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.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- 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
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Heart Name Tags” (p. 152), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Finger-Puppet Fun —Make Zacchaeus finger puppets.	“Zacchaeus Finger Puppet” handout (p. 177), crayons, pencils, scissors, hole punch	
	Option 2: Dough-See-Dough —Hide and search for milk-jug caps in modeling dough.	Modeling dough, milk-jug caps	
	Option 3: Clean Hearts —Make hearts that are clean on one side and dark on the other.	Dark-blue construction paper, scissors, dishwashing liquid, sugar, clothespins, cotton balls	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Respond to situations where they would need to say, “I’m sorry.”	Soapy paper hearts from Option 3, aluminum foil	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Use their finger puppets as they hear the story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10.	Bible, CD player, finger puppets from Option 1	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing a song, and act out what Zacchaeus did to show he was sorry.	CD player	
Closing 	Sorry, Joey —Teach Whiskers to say, “I’m sorry.”	Small toy truck	
	A Show of Hands —Use a finger play to tell the story of Zacchaeus, and then pray together.		

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

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Heart Name Tags” (p. 152), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Use questions such as “How were you kind to others?” and “What kind things did your family do?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong.**
- Hand out the heart name tags children made during Lesson 10, and help attach them to children’s clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



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.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What do you do when you hurt someone’s feelings?” or “When is it good to say you’re sorry?”

■ Option 1: Finger-Puppet Fun

SUPPLIES: “Zacchaeus Finger Puppet” handout (p. 177), crayons, pencils, scissors, hole punch

Make a photocopy of the “Zacchaeus Finger Puppet” for each child. Cut out the puppets, and use a hole punch to make holes where children’s fingers will go. Let each child color a puppet and poke a pencil or crayon through the hole to make it big enough to fit comfortably on a finger. Have willing helpers make extra finger puppets for children who don’t choose this option. As children are working, tell them that today they’ll hear what Zacchaeus did to show that he was sorry when he did wrong.

Collect the finger puppets for use in “Hear and Tell the Bible Story.”

■ Option 2: Dough-See-Dough

SUPPLIES: modeling dough, milk-jug caps

Set out modeling dough and the caps from plastic milk jugs. Form pairs, and have each partner hide a few caps in a lump of dough. Instruct partners to trade dough with each other and see if they can find the caps. Explain that sometimes when we do wrong things we can’t see them, but we can feel them inside—just like the caps are inside the dough. Remind children that ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong. Point out that when we say we’re sorry, we feel better inside.



To make the puppets sturdier, you may want to glue them to a backing cut from a file folder or cereal box.

You’ll need these puppets in a later activity.




teacher tips

You'll need one soapy paper heart for each child in your class, so have volunteers make extras for children who don't choose this option.

■ Option 3: Clean Hearts

SUPPLIES: dark-blue construction paper, scissors, dishwashing liquid, sugar, clothespins, cotton balls

Before class, mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar with just enough dishwashing liquid to form a very thick paste. Cut 8-inch hearts out of dark-blue construction paper, and then clip clothespins to cotton balls to make soap daubers. Have children dab the soap mixture on one side of the paper hearts. Explain that the bad things Zacchaeus did made his heart dark and unhappy. But when he showed that he was sorry, Jesus made his heart clean and happy like the soapy side of the heart. Watch to make sure children don't try to taste the mixture.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.
(Repeat 2x.)**

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: soapy paper hearts from Option 3, aluminum foil

Tell children that you'll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they're doing and repeat the clap. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Hid caps in modeling dough; put soap on paper hearts; made finger puppets.)

Say: **Some of you made finger puppets, some of you hid milk-jug caps in modeling dough, and some of you put soap on paper hearts. You were all doing important things to teach us about being sorry when we do things that are wrong.**

When you hid the milk-jug caps inside the dough, that was like hiding

bad things in our hearts. When you painted the hearts with the soap, you learned that when we tell Jesus we're sorry, Jesus makes our hearts clean again. When you made finger puppets, you were getting ready to hear the story of Zacchaeus being sorry for taking money.

Let's play a game to think about times when we should say we're sorry.

Have children sit at one end of the room. Place the paper hearts on a sheet of aluminum foil on the far side of the room, unsoaped sides facing up. Say: **I'll ask a question about a time when you might need to say you're sorry. If you should say sorry, jump up and say, "Sorry, Charlie!" Then hop to a paper heart, turn it over to the soapy side, and say, "All clean!" Then hop back. If you wouldn't need to say sorry, just stay sitting still.** As you read the following questions, remind children how to indicate their answers. As kids hop back, flip the hearts back over to the unsoaped sides.

- **Would you say sorry if your mom bought you an ice-cream cone?**
- **Would you say sorry if you dropped your ice cream on your mom's lap?**
- **Would you say sorry if you and your friend were sharing a toy?**
- **Would you say sorry if you took a toy that wasn't yours?**
- **Would you say sorry if you went to the park with your family?**
- **Would you say sorry if you called your brother a mean name?**

Gather children in a circle, and ask:

- **When should we tell someone we're sorry?** (When we hurt someone; if we do something naughty; if we're mean.)
- **What does it mean when we say sorry?** (That we wish we hadn't done it; that we feel bad about it; that we want to be forgiven.)

Say: ► ***Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong or hurt someone.***
Let's read our Bible story about how Zacchaeus showed that he was sorry.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible helper to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible helper today. Each week one of you will get to be the Bible helper.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



I'm so glad for the Bible.

Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.

I'm so glad for God's book today.

I'm so glad for the Bible.

Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—

Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—

Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.

Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—

Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.

Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *tree stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *tree stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, finger puppets from Option 1



Form a circle, and distribute the Zacchaeus finger puppets from Option 1.

Open the Bible to **Luke 19**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.** Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Zacchaeus*. **Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. Let's listen to our story and hear what happened to Zacchaeus. Each time you hear the name Jesus, run your Zacchaeus finger puppet up your arm to remember how Zacchaeus climbed up the tree to see Jesus.**

Hold the *Bible Big Book* so children can see it clearly. Play the "Zacchaeus" segment from the *CD* (track 16). Follow the text printed on the back cover, and turn the page when you hear the chime. When the story is over, ask:

- **What bad things did Zacchaeus do?** (He took people's money; he took too much money.)
- **Why did Zacchaeus give the money back?** (He was sorry; he wanted to make Jesus happy; he felt bad about taking the money.)
- **How do you think people felt when they got their money back?** (Surprised; happy; maybe they liked Zacchaeus; glad.)

Say: ► **Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong. Zacchaeus didn't**



just say he was sorry; he showed he was sorry by giving back the money he'd taken and by giving his things to poor people. The Bible tells us in Second Thessalonians to ► “never get tired of doing good.” It is good to be sorry if we do something wrong.

Now let's use our finger puppets as we sing a song about Zacchaeus and Jesus.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



track 17

Form pairs, and lead children in singing “Did You Ever See Zacchaeus?” (track 17) with the CD to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” Instruct one partner to hold his or her puppet up high, as if in a tree. The other partner can look at and point to the finger puppet during the song. Sing the song twice, allowing both partners to be the tree and Zacchaeus.



Did you ever see Zacchaeus (*hand over eyes across brow*),
Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus?

Did you ever see Zacchaeus
Way up in a tree? (*Point up high.*)

He looked 'round for Jesus (*turn around in a circle*),
Then climbed up to see him. (*Do climbing motions.*)
Did you ever see Zacchaeus (*hand over eyes across brow*)
Way up in a tree? (*Point up high.*)

Jesus saw Zacchaeus (*hand over eyes across brow*),
Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus.
Jesus saw Zacchaeus
Way up in that tree. (*Point up high.*)

“Zacchaeus, come down now!” (*Wave toward self.*)
“I’m coming to your house!” (*Point at another person.*)
Jesus saw Zacchaeus (*hand over eyes across brow*)
Way up in that tree. (*Point up high.*)

Say: **Now use your Zacchaeus finger puppets to show your partner what Zacchaeus did when he came down from the tree.**

Allow a moment for children to show Zacchaeus giving his money away and showing that he loves Jesus. Then ask:

- **How can you show you're sorry when you've done something wrong?** (By giving a hug; by not doing it again; by helping clean up a mess I've made.)
- **How will people feel when you show you're sorry?** (Better; happy; glad.)
- **How will Jesus feel when you show you're sorry?** (Glad; happy.)

Say: **Zacchaeus showed that he was sorry by giving back the money he'd stolen. ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong, too. This week, if you do something you know you shouldn't do, remember to show that you're sorry. That makes everyone feel better! Let's see if Whiskers knows about saying, “I'm sorry.”**

Collect the finger puppets, and put them out of sight.

◀ BIBLE VERSE



When assigning partners for activities, try to pair children with similar abilities.



Closing

■ Sorry, Joey

SUPPLIES: *small toy truck*

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse holding a small toy truck between his paws, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: Hi, everyone! I sure had fun sharing your snack last week. You were so kind to me. That's why I brought this toy truck to share with you!

Teacher: Wow! That's a nice truck, Whiskers. Where'd you get it?

Whiskers: It's my Cousin Joey's.

Teacher: Did Joey say that you could bring it here to share with us?

Whiskers: Well...no. He told me I couldn't play with it at all. But he's got so many great toys, I bet he doesn't even know I took it!

Teacher: Whiskers, it's wrong to take something that belongs to someone else. That's called stealing.

Whiskers: But I really, really like this truck! And...and I was going to let all my friends here use it, too!

Teacher: Children, I think Whiskers needs to hear about what Zacchaeus did.

(Allow children to tell how Zacchaeus took money from people and then returned all the money—plus four times more.)

Whiskers: I guess I'm sorry that I took the truck. I just wanted to have something neat to share with everyone.

Teacher: Well, I'm glad you're sorry. But now you need to show Joey that you're sorry for taking his truck.

Whiskers: You mean by giving the truck back?

Teacher: I think that would be a good place to start!

Whiskers: OK, I'll take the truck back and tell Cousin Joey that I'm sorry for taking it. Maybe next week I can bring something of my own to share! 'Bye, everyone!

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■ A Show of Hands

SUPPLIES: none

Say: **Whiskers did the right thing by returning the truck to his Cousin Joey. ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong, and it's important that we show we're sorry. Let's remember what Zacchaeus did to show that he was sorry for taking the people's money.**

Teach children the following finger play.

My name's Zacchaeus. I'm small as your thumb. (*Hold up your thumb.*)
I am a man Zacchaeus stole from. (*Hold up your pointer finger.*)
I'm the tall tree that Zacchaeus climbed. (*Hold up your middle finger.*)
My name is Jesus. I was loving and kind. (*Hold up your ring finger.*)
I'm the new Zacchaeus who learned right from wrong. (*Hold up your little finger.*)
Now everyone's glad to have me along! (*Wiggle all five fingers.*)

Repeat the rhyme a couple of times so children can learn the words.



Say: ► **Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong. But it isn't enough to just feel sorry. We can let others know we are sorry by saying so and by doing something kind and good for them. We can also tell Jesus we are sorry. Let's pray to him now.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, we're sorry for the times when we don't do the right thing. We want to be more like you, because you ► "never get tired of doing good." We love you, Jesus. Amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week'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.

■ **Lively Learning: Money Madness**

Before class, hide 20 to 30 stickers around the room. Place a clean, empty jar in the middle of the room. On your signal, have children search for the stickers and put them in the jar. As the jar fills up, explain that Zacchaeus showed he was sorry by giving back four times the amount of money he'd taken. Remind children that ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong.

■ **Make to Take: Coin Purses**



Distribute small paper plates, and show children how to fold opposite edges in, as shown here. Then have them fold the plates in half. Staple the sides, near the bottom, and then punch two holes in the top edges and help children string a length of yarn through the holes. Be sure the yarn is long enough to allow children to pull the coin purses open. Allow children to decorate their coin purses with crayons, markers, and the *tree stamp*. As children work, review how Zacchaeus collected too much money from people, and then gave back four times as much as he took. Remind them that ► Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong.



■ **Treat to Eat: Money Bags**

Set out spoons and bowls of ring-shaped cereal, such as Cheerios. Help each child pour four spoonfuls of cereal in a small bag. Tell children to pretend their bags of cereal are bags of coins. Encourage children to trade bags with someone else in the classroom. Remind them that Zacchaeus gave his money away.

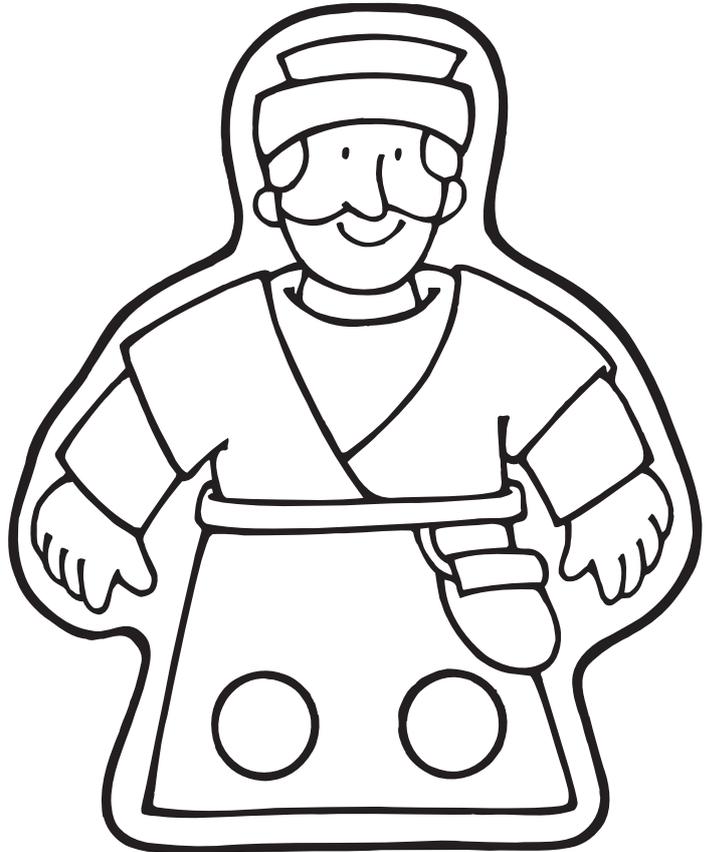
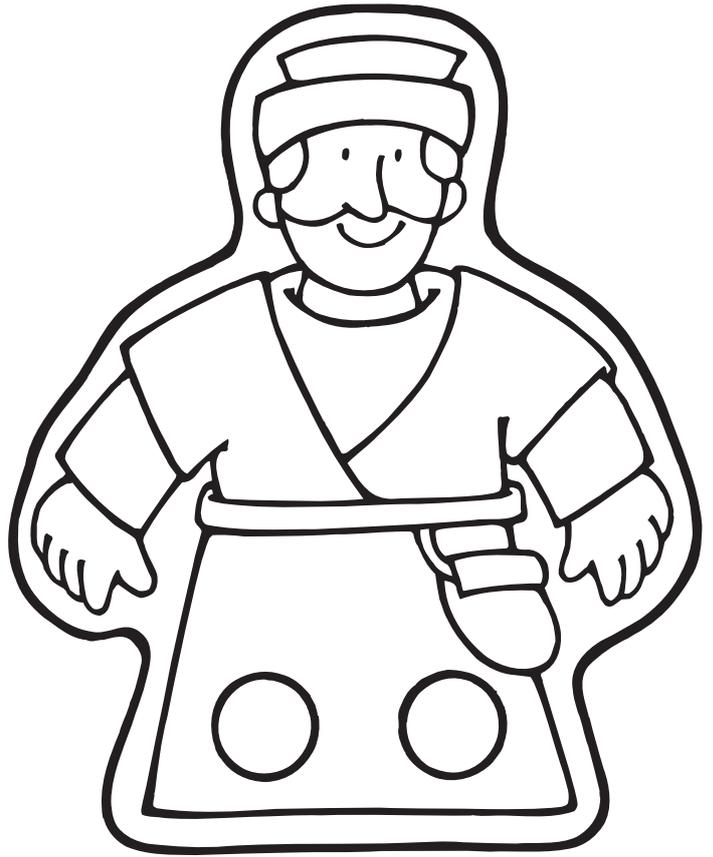


■ **Story Picture: Zacchaeus Is Sorry**

Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out glue sticks and small pieces of a brown grocery bag. Show children how to glue the brown paper on the money bags in the picture. As children work, ask them to tell you what Zacchaeus did with his money.

Zacchaeus Finger Puppet

Photocopy the handout, and cut out the Zacchaeus puppets. Use a hole punch to make holes where children's fingers will go. Children will use a pencil or crayon to make the holes big enough for their fingers.



Today I learned... Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do wrong.

Help me learn this:

“Never get tired of doing good”
(2 Thessalonians 3:13b).

Ask me:

- What had Zacchaeus done that was wrong?
- How did Zacchaeus show Jesus he was sorry?
- Tell about a time you showed that you were sorry.

Family Fun

- Make a family “Love Bank” by turning a plastic cup upside down and cutting a slit in the bottom. Cut out several small paper hearts, and place them in a bowl next to the bank. When a family member apologizes or shows kindness, have him or her place a heart in the bank. When all the paper hearts have been deposited, celebrate with a visit to a frozen yogurt shop.

Lesson 12
Today your child learned that
**JESUS WANTS US TO BE
SORRY WHEN WE DO WRONG.**
Children heard how Zacchaeus
showed he was sorry for the
wrong things he'd done.
They talked about ways they
can show they're sorry.

Zacchaeus Is Sorry

(Luke 19:8)

