



ZACCHAEUS

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Have you ever wondered how comic book writers came up with those *dramatic* superhero story lines? They were borrowed from passion plays the medieval Church used to teach the Bible to a largely illiterate population. Superhero stories are modern re-tellings of the Greatest Story!

For instance, superheroes have an origin story. They're launched into heroism by a defining moment—their creation story.

We have an origin story, too. The Bible says that in a real moment in time we humans were created by God to bear his image and do heroic things! Created to look into his face and reflect his glory, we were lovely because he loved us (to paraphrase *the Jesus Storybook Bible*). What a beautiful beginning!

Are you feeling uncertain of his love or somehow unworthy? Peek ahead in the story! Be reminded that God will always love us, no matter the cost. His love holds the beginning, middle, and end of our stories.



1



ZACCHAEUS

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Have you ever wondered how comic book writers came up with those *dramatic* superhero story lines? They were borrowed from passion plays the medieval Church used to teach the Bible to a largely illiterate population. Superhero stories are modern re-tellings of the Greatest Story!

For instance, superheroes have an origin story. They're launched into heroism by a defining moment—their creation story.

We have an origin story, too. The Bible says that in a real moment in time we humans were created by God to bear his image and do heroic things! Created to look into his face and reflect his glory, we were lovely because he loved us (to paraphrase *the Jesus Storybook Bible*). What a beautiful beginning!

Are you feeling uncertain of his love or somehow unworthy? Peek ahead in the story! Be reminded that God will always love us, no matter the cost. His love holds the beginning, middle, and end of our stories.



WELCOME

- Slides (download [HERE](#))
- Zacchaeus Collector Cards (download [HERE](#))

LOW ENERGY GAME

- Jumbo-size coin (purchase [HERE](#))

SMALL GROUP LESSON

- 1 set of *First Things First* cards (download [HERE](#))
PREP: Cut out and shuffle cards.
- 1 set of *First Things First* wall cards (download [HERE](#))
PREP: Cut out cards.
- Masking tape (purchase [HERE](#))

CRAFT ACTIVITY

- 1 cardboard coaster per kid (purchase [HERE](#))
- Tacky glue (purchase [HERE](#))
- 1 pipe cleaner per kid (purchase [HERE](#))
- 1 square of aluminum foil per kid (purchase [HERE](#))
- Permanent markers (purchase [HERE](#))
- Scissors (purchase [HERE](#))

HIGH ENERGY GAME

- 1 Crazy hat (purchase [HERE](#))
- 1 Spray bottle, filled with water (purchase [HERE](#))

SKIT

- 3 \$1 bills in prop money
 - Bottle of water
 - Cash box filled with prop money
 - T-shirt that says, “Generosity Wins”
 - Table and chairs (*place on stage*)
 - Sign: “Bottled water—\$1.00” (*place on table*)
 - Blanket (*drape near table, as if covering something*)
 - Heavy marker
- PREP:** Draw a heart on front. Write “Generosity Wins” inside heart.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

- Slides (download [HERE](#))
- Preshow video (download [HERE](#))
- Zacchaeus Story sound effects (download [HERE](#))

MINISTRY TIME

- Markers (purchase [HERE](#))
- Heart-shaped sticky notes (purchase [HERE](#))
- Soft music

WORSHIP

WELCOME

ZACCHAEUS

5
min



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

Today's hero is Zacchaeus.

Hand out collector cards. (Download [HERE](#))

ICE BREAKER

Partner up.

Allow 30 seconds for the pairs to discuss one of the questions below. At the end of the allotted time, everyone finds a new partner and repeats the activity.

Questions:

- Would you rather have a generous scoop of ice cream or a generous slice of pizza?
- Would you rather have a generous allowance or a generous amount of screen time?
- Would you rather have a generous glass of milk or a generous glass of juice?
- Would you rather have someone be generous with their kind words (what they say) or generous with their actions toward you (what they do)?

INTRO

Turn to a neighbor and share...



If you could give someone something to show them you love them, what would it be?



Today we'll find out if someone who is a greedy villain could ever turn into a generous hero.

RULES

We've only got **THREE RULES**. Not too bad!



As a **SUPERHERO**, I will...

- 1 **Protect others and play fair.**
- 2 **Have an amazing attitude.**
- 3 **Use my power for good!**

If you follow these rules, you'll have a great time and learn something new.

OFFERING

It's so great to **GIVE BACK TO GOD**. When we give God back a small piece of what he's given us, we show how much we trust him.



Pray aloud that God would bless the offering and the church's mission in the community and world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Add your announcements below:



= Show slide for this point. (Download [HERE](#).)

LOW ENERGY GAME

ZACCHAEUS

10
min



HEADS OR TAILS

SUPPLIES:

- Jumbo-size coin ([purchase HERE](#))

All players stand up and put both hands on either their head or “tail” (bottom).

A leader (or kid) flips the jumbo coin.

Players whose position matches the way the coin lands must do a challenge together (see below). For example, if the coin lands “heads” side up, players with their hands on their heads must do a challenge.

Change the challenge with each toss of the coin.

Challenge Ideas:

- Sing a favorite song together.
- Recite today’s lesson point (*Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him*).
- Recite today’s Bible verse (*I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love. Ephesians 3:18*).
- Hold your breath for 30 seconds.
- Make up motions for the lesson point.
- Sing the ABC song with your mouth closed.
- Freeze like statues for 45 seconds while everyone else stares at you.
- Line up so that the colors of your shirts make a rainbow.

DISCUSS AFTER THE ACTIVITY:

In this game, when the coin flipped, something new happened.

How is that like or unlike what happens when people put their trust in Jesus and have their lives “flipped” by him?

SMALL GROUP LESSON

ZACCHAEUS

15
min



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

Introduce yourself and welcome each kid by name.

Check up on previous prayer requests or events.

ACTIVITY

SUPPLIES:

- 1 set of *First Things First* cards (download [HERE](#))
PREP: Cut out and shuffle cards.
- 1 set of *First Things First* wall cards (download [HERE](#))
PREP: Cut out cards.
- Masking tape (purchase [HERE](#))

How does Jesus feel about us?

Allow responses.

Jesus words and actions show that he loves us—very much! It's hard to even imagine how much he loves each one of us.

That's why Paul, the writer of our Bible verse, says, "I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love."

When we understand and experience the greatness of Jesus' love for us, it changes us! We start to become the awesome people—the superheroes—God created us to be. And we can't help but love Jesus back.

All the important things in our lives get re-shuffled, so only what's really important is at the top of the list. Let's discover what I'm talking about and how Jesus' love can change what's first in our hearts.

Place the set of playing cards face down. Have a kid or two help you tape up the wall cards side by side, along the baseboard.

Have another kid pick two playing cards and decide which of those two is more important, move the corresponding wall card up one space and place the two playing cards in a discard pile.

***Important:** Accept the kids' choices without evaluation or criticism.*

Repeat, cycling through each kid in the group. When only one card is left in the deck, reshuffle the discard pile and continue. The more you evaluate and re-evaluate, the more revealing the results on the wall will be—and the greater genuine discoveries kids will make!

Discuss:



If the "cross" card is at the top ask,

Tell me how your life shows that Jesus is important to you. What are ways you try to show Jesus that you love him?



If the "cross" card is NOT on top ask,

How would your life be different if Jesus had a more important place in it?



How has Jesus shown you that he loves you?

PRAY

Pray that the Holy Spirit will help each kid experience the love of Jesus and fill them with love for him, until he has first place in their hearts.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

ZACCHAEUS

15
min



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

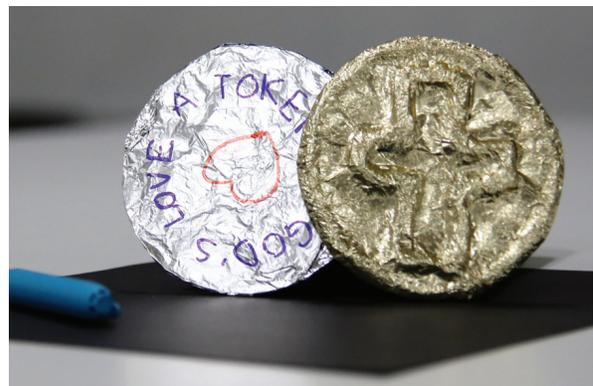
TOKEN OF GOD'S LOVE

SUPPLIES:

- 1 cardboard coaster per kid ([purchase HERE](#))
- Tacky glue ([purchase HERE](#))
- 1 pipe cleaner per kid ([purchase HERE](#))
- 1 square of aluminum foil per kid ([purchase HERE](#))
- Permanent markers ([purchase HERE](#))
- Scissors ([purchase HERE](#))

- 1 Each kid gets one coaster, one pipe cleaner, and two squares of foil.
- 2 Make a very simple shape out of a pipe cleaner, such as a heart or cross.
- 3 Glue the shape on the top of a coaster.
- 4 Cut a 4 inch square (give or take) out of the foil.
- 5 Carefully press the foil down around the edges of the pipe cleaner shape.
- 6 Press the edges of the foil down and fold around the edges of the coaster.
- 7 Cut out a circle out of the other piece of foil, the size of the coaster. Write "Token of God's Love" with a permanent marker.
- 8 Glue it on the back side of the coaster.
- 9 Color and decorate the coin with permanent markers.

Tip: Color gently! But don't despair if the foil tears. It is easily molded back in shape.



DISCUSS DURING THE ACTIVITY:

- Zacchaeus was a greedy tax collector until he met Jesus and experienced his love. Then his life was flipped around so that he became generous. How does God flip your life around and change you to be more like him?
- Do you think you can become more like Jesus just by trying harder? Why or why not?
- God really loves us no matter what- but that's hard to understand sometimes. What can you do to help yourself better understand God's love?

HIGH ENERGY GAME

ZACCHAEUS



FACE THE CONSEQUENCES

SUPPLIES:

- 1 Crazy hat ([purchase HERE](#))
- 1 Spray bottle, filled with water ([purchase HERE](#))

- 1 Listen carefully and follow the instructions exactly.
- 2 If anyone is unable (or unwilling) to accomplish the task, he or she must perform one of the following consequences:
 - Wear a crazy hat for 3 minutes.
 - Get sprayed with water.
 - Do 20 jumping jacks.

Instructions:

- Lift your feet up as high as you can.
- Roll over... and over... and over.
- Waddle like a duck.
- Rub your tummy and pat your head at the same time.
- Prance around and toss your mane like a beautiful Princess Unicorn.
- Crawl on the ground like a tiny ladybug.
- Pretend to climb a very high ladder.
- Draw with your toes.
- Cry like a tired little baby.
- Smell your feet.
- Hug yourself.
- Walk on your knees while you're hugging yourself.
- Pretend to be a very itchy monkey!
- Pretend to be a giraffe- with a pain in your neck!
- Pretend to be a terribly tired butterfly.
- Tickle a friend.
- Hide your head in your shirt.
- Yawn.
- DON'T yawn!
- Play air guitar.
- Play the air drums.
- Play the air tuba!
- Stand on one foot for 10 seconds.
- Hop on the other foot.
- Wink with one eye while hopping on one foot!
- Tickle your own feet.
- Tickle your neighbor's feet.
- Walk backwards four steps.
- Kiss your tummy.
- Run, run, run in place—as fast as you can!
- Jump, jump, jump as high as you can!
- Spread your arms and pretend to fly up, up, up as far as you can!
- Frog-hop in a circle.
- Be a tree, blowing in the wind.
- Be scissors!
- Dance the cha-cha!
- Pretend to sit in a chair.
- Do your best Robot Dance.
- Show all the muscles in your arms.

SKIT

ZACCHAEUS



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

GENEROSITY WINS

PROPS:

- T-shirt that says, “Generosity Wins”
PREP: Draw a heart on front of a white t-shirt. Write “Generosity Wins” inside heart.
- 3 \$1 bills in prop money
- Bottle of water
- Cash box filled with prop money
- Heavy marker
- Table and chairs (*place on stage*)
- “Bottled water—\$1.00” sign (*place on table*)
- Blanket (*drape near table, covering something*)

CHARACTER 1 is wearing the t-shirt underneath a hoodie. CHARACTER 1 is sitting at the table, counting money in his cash box. CHARACTER 2 enters and sees Character 1 at the table.

CHARACTER 2: Oh, hi there! I see you’re selling water! Great!

CHARACTER 1: That’s what the sign says.

CHARACTER 2: (*Pulling out \$1.*) I’ll have a bottle of water, please.

CHARACTER 1: (*Looking at the dollar.*) As you can see, there’s only one bottle left. Someone else will be along any second who’ll be a lot thirstier than you, and he’ll probably want it even more than you do.

CHARACTER 2: What?

CHARACTER 1: Don’t you hear too well? I said,

someone will want this last bottle of cool, refreshing water a LOT more than you do.

Looking past CHARACTER 2.

Oh, look, I think I see a thirsty traveler coming down the road!

CHARACTER 2: But I’m here now offering to buy it from you!

CHARACTER 1: (*Looking at CHARACTER 1’s dollar.*) With THAT? I don’t think so!

CHARACTER 2: What?!! But the sign says, “Bottled water—\$1”. Don’t you want my money?

CHARACTER 1: Oh, sure. I just think this LAST bottle of cool, wet, thirst-quenching water is worth more than a dollar! Don’t you?

CHARACTER 2: (*Shocked.*) You’re a price-gouger!

CHARACTER 1: Now, now, no name-calling please! I haven’t called you “cheap” have I? Do you want this water or not?

CHARACTER 2: (*Taking another dollar out of his or her pocket.*) Okay... here... DOUBLE the advertised price.

CHARACTER 1: Nope. Not good enough.

CHARACTER 2: What!? This isn’t right, you know! (*Takes out his or her last dollar.*) Here. Three dollars. Three times the original price. That’s all I have.

CHARACTER 1: I’m sorry to hear that. But... since I’m s-o-o nice, I’ll give you a break. I’ll take your three dollars. (*Grabs the money.*)

CHARACTER 2: My water, please.

CHARACTER 1: Sure... here you go.

Hands over the water.

A pleasure doing business with you.

CHARACTER 2: I'm sure.

CHARACTER 1: You know, all this talk about water has made me thirsty, too.

CHARACTER 2: Well, it's too bad there's no other water around.

CHARACTER 1: Heh, heh, that's what you think. All I have to do is go over here and...

Lifts up blanket and throws it upstage.

...WHAT!?!? OH NO!! I'VE BEEN ROBBED!!! Someone stole my secret stash of water!!! This is terrible!!! What am I gonna do???

CHARACTER 2: You're not kidding?

CHARACTER 1: No-o-o-o!!!

CHARACTER 2: Oh, dear! So—you're really out of water?

CHARACTER 1: Yes!! Look! No... more... water!! *Goes to cash box.* All this money—what good is it?? I'm going to DIE rich and THIRSTY!!!

CHARACTER 2: Listen, don't worry, you're not going to die. This bottle of water is enough for both of us.

CHARACTER 1: *(Looking at CHARACTER 2 suspiciously.)* What do you mean? Oh, I get it!! This is your chance to pay me back, right? So, now what are you going to charge me?

CHARACTER 2: I'm not going to charge you anything. I'm not!! Here, take a drink. It's absolutely free.

CHARACTER 1: What?? You're willing to share your water with me for FREE? Wait!! Did you put something in it? Is that it? You're trying to poison me?

CHARACTER 2: Would it make you feel better if I took the first drink?

Takes a sip of the water.

See? Perfectly safe.

CHARACTER 1: Really? You're offering me free water after I cheated you? Why?

CHARACTER 2: Look, someone was super-generous with me when I didn't deserve it. So I can afford to be generous with you.

CHARACTER 1: I don't know what to say, except, "thanks."

Takes a drink from water bottle.

Did it just get darker? What happened to the sun?

CHARACTER 2: It went behind some clouds.

(Looking up.) Wow! Those are stormy-looking! And the wind... brrr... it's getting chilly! That sure happened fast!

CHARACTER 1: *(Takes off hoodie.)* Here, you're cold and I'm plenty warm enough. You take this.

Hands hoodie to CHARACTER 2.

CHARACTER 2: Oh, thank you!

Puts on hoodie. Notices message on t-shirt. Reads aloud.

"Generosity Wins."

Light teasing. Hey, your "secret identity" has been revealed!

CHARACTER 1: What?

CHARACTER 2: Your shirt. "Generosity Wins". It was hidden before.

CHARACTER 1: Yeah? Hey, I just had a crazy idea. We could go buy more water and give it away for free! It'd blow people's minds!

CHARACTER 2: Yeah, I see who you really are, "Captain Generous"!

CHARACTER 1: *(Marks through price on sign and writes "FREE", laughing it off.)* Yeah, yeah. That's the new me, all right. Let's go.

Both EXIT.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

ZACCHAEUS

20
min



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

SUPPLIES:

- Slides ([download HERE](#))
- Preshow video ([download HERE](#))
- *Zacchaeus Story* sound effects ([download HERE](#))



PRESHOW VIDEO ([download HERE](#))
Run Jump Fly - Michael Patrick Kelly

Hey everyone! How are you doing? I'm _____,

Have you ever played a game in which you had to take turns? To begin, you had to decide who was going to go first, didn't you? And if everyone wanted to go first, then the game might be over before it started! That's why somebody really smart invented rhymes to help decide who goes first, rhymes like "Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Moe," and "Bubblegum, bubblegum in a dish. How many pieces do you wish?" I always liked "My mother chose the very best one and Y-O-U spells YOU!" When I was a kid, we always tacked that on to other rhymes for a big finish.

Everyone likes to be first. But when you can't be first, it takes someone with a great attitude to handle it well. By "great" attitude I really mean a generous attitude.

Did you know we can have attitudes that are generous or we can have attitudes that are stingy and greedy? Let's think about that. To be generous means to be free and extravagant in giving and sharing. So, if you always want to be first, and you get upset when you're not and someone else is, which kind of attitude do you think you have—generous or greedy?

Allow responses.

What kind of actions would show a generous attitude?

Allow responses.

The Bible tells about a Jewish man named Zacchaeus who lived in the town of Jericho.

God had created Zacchaeus to know him and be in friendship with him. But something had happened to Zacchaeus' heart along the way. He worked for the Romans as a tax collector, which meant he collected the tax money all his neighbors in Jericho had to pay to the Roman government.

Sound Effect 1: *Coins spilling*

Zacchaeus became very rich, because he made his neighbors pay more money than they owed in taxes, and he kept the extra for himself! First, he took some money for himself from his neighbors' pockets. Then, he took the taxes they owed to Rome. Zacchaeus was putting himself first at the expense of all his neighbors.

Sound Effect 2: *"Oh, that Zacchaeus!"*

Would you say he was generous or greedy?

Allow responses.

How do you think his neighbors felt about him?

Allow responses.

Well, one day something exciting happened in the town of Jericho! The hottest celebrity of their time was coming through Jericho! WOW! I imagine the whole town buzzed with excitement. One of the town elders may have made plans to host this important visitor in his home, because that was the



= **Show slide for this point.** ([Download HERE](#).)

tradition. Maybe someone was assigned to pick up trash on the side of the road into town.

There might have been kids getting faces and fingernails scrubbed.

Sound Effect 3: *Scrub brush with child's voice: "Ow, you're scrubbing too hard!"*

When someone came running in, breathlessly panting, "he's almost here," the entire town came out and lined the street to welcome their guest and his companions. Even Zacchaeus showed up. But no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't even get a glimpse of the street. See, he was a little shorter than everyone else, and the whole town cooperated in forming a giant wall to keep him at the back. No one wanted their honored guest to meet Jericho's most embarrassing citizen—Zacchaeus, the tax-collecting traitor.

Sound Effect 4: *"Oh, that Zacchaeus!"*

But Zacchaeus wanted desperately to see the celebrity—who would be arriving any second! What could he do? He looked around for help—and spied a nearby sycamore fig tree. The branches hung right over the roadway! He ran over to it. Everyone was looking the other way. No one would notice him climbing a tree, so he clambered up as quickly as a man wearing a long robe could, and crept out onto the branch.

Sound Effect 5: *Tree climbing sounds*

Hugging tightly to it, he tried to disappear behind the leaves.

The visitors came into view, and the people started cheering.

Sound Effect 6: *Crowd cheering*

Of course, the man they were cheering for was... Jesus! He was the one they were waiting for!

That's when the city elder would have officially greeted him. "Rabbi, welcome to our town. Honor me by being a guest in my home." But Jesus was looking for something- or someone- else. His answer would have been courteous, but firm. "Thank you, but my Father has made other plans for me."

Jesus moved forward, searching the crowd. The elders and city leaders must have followed, confused. Jesus kept on until he stood next to the tree. He looked all around him, and suddenly smiled.

Leaning back, he looked up into the overhanging branches of the sycamore tree and called...

Sound Effect 7: *Jesus speaking, "Zacchaeus! Come down, for I must stay at your house today."*

Do you think there was a moment of stunned silence as everyone reacted to this? Jesus chose Zacchaeus? The tax collecting traitor? Maybe. But Zacchaeus shimmied down that tree, and escorted his guest to his home. He even invited his other tax-collector buddies to come, too. They made it a party!

Sound Effect 8: *Party sounds*

Later that evening, Zacchaeus talked with Jesus. Don't you think he asked, "Why did you stop by the tree and say you were coming to my house?" I think Jesus would have answered, "Because my Father loves you and so do I." What do you think?

After they talked, Zacchaeus stood up and made an announcement. "Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus responded...

Sound Effect 9: *Jesus speaking, "Today salvation has come to this house."*

END of SFX.

The Bible tells us that God created people to be like him. That means God created Zacchaeus to be kind and generous, like God is. Then, how did he get to be so greedy and selfish?

Allow responses.

Thankfully, something happened to change Zacchaeus, so he could become generous. What happened?

Allow responses.

Remind kids that Zacchaeus discovered that God loved him. Receiving God's love—in Jesus—and loving him in return set Zacchaeus free to be the superhero of generosity that God had created him to be.

Guess what? God created each of us to be superheroes of his love. We don't always act like him, though, do we? Things have happened that mess us up inside, so wrong actions come out of us. But when each of us experiences God's love, like Zacchaeus did, we'll be changed, too. In fact, it's the only way you and I can become the real heroes God



= Show slide for this point. (Download [HERE](#).)

created us to be. Here's a Bible **MEMORY VERSE** to help us remember this:

“I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love.”



Let’s say it like this:

I pray... *Folded prayer hands.*

That you... *Point out.*

Will have the power... *Strong muscle arms.*

To understand... *Point at head with index finger of each hand.*

The greatness... *Palms out with arms extended at 45-degree angle.*

Of Christ’s love. *Make fists, cross arms across chest.*

Maybe **ZACCHAEUS** thought being a tax collector would give him power and make his neighbors respect him. Maybe he thought being rich would give him respect. He even took what didn’t belong to him to get those things. You can’t make people respect you by doing wrong. Zacchaeus became a greedy villain of Jericho. That wasn’t who God had created him to be. But then he met Jesus. Jesus’ love and forgiveness set him free to be a superhero of generosity.



Ten-year-old **AADEN** felt okay about himself when he obeyed the rules and everything was the way he liked it. But when he couldn’t do what he was asked, he’d scream, kick, and bang his head against the wall. Sometimes other people got hurt. Aaden began to believe he was a bad guy no one could love. Then Aaden’s grandma told him that even on bad days, Jesus loves him, and has power to help him. Now, when Aaden starts to spin out of control,



he likes to have a family member pray for him, because Jesus helps him get his self-control back. He’s more confident because he knows Jesus loves him no matter what.

MARINA, ten years old, discovered that she had cancer. She was scared. A church worker visited Marina’s home to invite her to a Day Camp where kids could play, have fun, and learn about Jesus. Something changed when Marina heard about Jesus’ BIG love—and how he died on a cross to bring us close to God. She asked God for a new beginning. A camp worker prayed with Marina. “You have a very special place in God’s heart,” she told her. Since then, Marina has had hope for the future. She’s not afraid of the cancer anymore because she knows that Jesus is with her no matter what.



Each of these people were changed in good ways when they experienced the love of Jesus. That’s because Jesus’ love isn’t a mushy valentine kind of feeling—it’s strong, it has power, and it lasts forever.

His love will change us! We need to let Jesus love us, and learn to love him in return. Our Bible verse for today is a prayer that we would “have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love.” We need Jesus to open our eyes to see his love, and open our hearts to receive his love. Only he can give us the superpower to understand it and love him, too!

So, that brings us to **TODAY’S POINT:**

Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.



Repeat point aloud with kids.

Let’s pray that God will give each of us the power to understand his love, and love him, too.

End with a prayer.



= **Show slide for this point.** (Download [HERE](#).)

MINISTRY TIME

ZACCHAEUS



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

SUPPLIES:

- Heart-shaped sticky notes ([purchase HERE](#))
- Markers ([purchase HERE](#))
- Soft music

Ask kids to sit or stand quietly. Pray aloud for the Holy Spirit to connect with each of you as you read the following passage of scripture:

“And I pray that you and all God’s holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ’s love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Christ’s love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.”

Jesus wants you to know how much he loves you! He doesn’t just want you to know the words, “Jesus loves me,” he wants you to know what it feels like to be loved by him. Let’s pray for that now.

Holy Spirit, please help each of us experience the love of Jesus that is so great no one can completely understand it.

Hand out heart-shaped sticky notes and markers.

As a word or picture comes to your mind that describes what Jesus’ love is like, write or draw it on one of these heart-shaped sticky notes, and put it on a wall around the room. Create as many sticky notes as you want. Let’s cover the walls.

Holy Spirit, show us the love of Jesus.

Give kids time to respond to the Holy Spirit. Play soft background music and be available for prayer.

Look at all the love that surrounds us! Sometimes we face hard things, and it can really help to remember that we’re surrounded by Jesus’ love. So, this week, look for ways to experience his love every day.

Thank you Jesus for your awesome love for us. Help us each to know your love better each day.

For more directions on how to pray with kids, see the [Five-Step Prayer Model for Kids](#).

WORSHIP

ZACCHAEUS

10
min



THE VERSE I pray that you . . . will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love.
Ephesians 3:18 (ICB)

THE POINT Jesus loves heroes and heroes love him.

SONG #1



THIS IS OUR TIME (watch [HERE](#), purchase [HERE](#))

Planetshakers

*Amiee Evans, Andy Harrison, Josh Ham, Mitch Wong,
Steph Ling*

*© 2014 Planetshakers Ministries Int. Inc. (Admin. by
Music Services, Inc.)*

CCLI: 7014852

SONG #2



GOOD GOOD FATHER (watch [HERE](#), purchase [HERE](#))

Zealand Worship

Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett

*© Capitol CMG Parago, Common Hymnal Publishing
(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Housefires Sounds*

(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); sixsteps Music

(Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Tony Brown

Publishing Designee (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);

Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing);

worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG

Publishing)

CCLI: 7036612

SONG #3



NEON (watch [HERE](#), purchase [HERE](#))

Mountainbrook Kids

Ben Erickson, Karen George, Sherilyn Keller

© 2018 Keller, Sherilyn

CCLI: 7122753