LESSON PLAN

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

SERIES: Following Christ
THE POINT: Following Jesus Transforms My Heart
BIBLE STORY: Jesus and Zacchaeus || Luke 19:1-10
AGE: Grade 3 - Grade 6

ABOUT THIS LESSON

In Week 3 of the "Following Christ" series, children explore the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector whose life was completely changed after meeting Jesus. Zacchaeus did not just hear about Jesus, he responded and changing the way he lived. This lesson helps children understand that following Jesus leads to transformation. As we choose to follow Jesus, He changes our hearts, attitudes and actions to reflect His goodness more and more.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Learn, understand and retell the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector
- Understand that choosing to follow Jesus leads to ongoing transformation into His goodness
- Recognise the importance of continually learning about God to grow more like Him

BIBLE CONTEXT

Luke 19 takes place as Jesus travels through the city of Jericho. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was very wealthy, but he was disliked because he took advantage of others. Wanting to see Jesus, Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he was short. Jesus noticed Zacchaeus, called him by name and chose to spend time with him. This encounter led Zacchaeus to repent and change his behaviour. Jesus declared that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house, showing that meeting Jesus leads to real and lasting change.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 16:24 (NIV) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Pages 2-4 have a variety of different activities to add onto the Link Crew Video!

Make this toolbox your own! Use it in whatever way helps your group dive deeper into the lesson. The goal is deep understanding and great discussions.

Page Number	Name	Activity Description
2	Discussion Guide	Discussions guides, application "Faith in Action" statements and prayer pointers to help facilitate a greater discussion.
3	Activities Page	Fun, topic based activities like a craft, game, quiz and Memory verse activity that bring the learning to life.

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

START THE CONVERSATION

"Have you ever done something the same way over and over only to find out it was the wrong way?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 3 – 4

1. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly that he climbed a tree. What does this show you about how much Zacchaeus wanted to meet Jesus? How can you show that you want to know Jesus more?

2. Jesus chose to spend time with Zacchaeus even though others didn't like him. What does this teach you about Jesus' love? How does it make you feel knowing Jesus loves you too?

3. After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus changed the way he treated people. Why do you think following Jesus changes how we act? What is a way you can act more like Jesus this week?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, GRADE 5 – 6

1. Zacchaeus didn't just listen to Jesus, he responded with action. Why is real change an important part of following Jesus? How does obedience show that our hearts are changing?

2. Zacchaeus chose to make things right with the people he had wronged. Why do you think repentance is an important part of transformation? How can making things right help us grow closer to God?

3. Transformation doesn't happen all at once, it happens over time. Why is it important to keep learning about God as we follow Jesus? What habits can help you grow spiritually?

FAITH IN ACTION

Following Jesus changes us from the inside out. As we keep learning about God and walking with Jesus, we grow more like Him. Think of one way you can grow in your faith this week.

- "I can make the decision today to follow Christ and believe with my heart and mouth that Jesus us my lord and saviour."

If you have have made that decision and call yourself a Christian:

- "I can read my Bible to learn more about God and live more like Him."
- "I can grow my personal relationship with God by praying and talking to Him."
- "I can continually remind myself and be grateful for Jesus forgiving me of my sins and being my Lord and Saviour to remind myself why I should always aim to transform into Him."

Pray

Go around the class asking your kids if there is anything they would like prayer for. Ask if anyone would like to pray for each other, and give them the opportunity to. If not, then pray for the needs as the teacher / facilitator. Remember to pray for the children to reflect on Jesus loving them so much that they want to be transformed in the way that they speak and act.

Take note of any prayer requests to be passed onto your child's support network.

Lesson Wrap-up

Zacchaeus' life was transformed when he followed Jesus. When we choose to follow Jesus, He changes our hearts and helps us live differently. Following Jesus is a journey of growing more and more like Him.

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ACTIVITIES PAGE

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

ACTIVITY - ORIGAMI HEARTS

Supplies Needed: Origami Paper, Or A4 Paper made into a square. Pens/Pencils, Instructions on Resource Page

Have the Children follow the instructions on how to make an Origami heart. Once completed have the children write and draw on the front, "Following Jesus transforms our heart."

GAME - KNIGHTS, HORSES, CAVALIERS

Have the children pair up. The aim of the game is for each pair to quickly form the action called out by the leader. The last pair to complete the action is out. Knight: One child kneels on one knee while their partner sits on the other knee. Horse: One child gets on all fours like a horse, while their partner stands behind them as if riding. Cavalier: Both children hold a high five in the air. Children move around the room until the leader calls out an action. They must quickly find their partner and perform the action. The last pair to do so is out.

BIBLE QUIZ

1. True or False: Zacchaeus was climbed a tree to see Jesus because he was short. (True)

2. Short Answer: What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? ("Come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.")

3. Multiple Choice: What did Zacchaeus promise to do after meeting Jesus? (b)
   a) Ignore his past
   b) Give the money back and some that he took and to help the poor
   c) Be honest with his money from now on

4. Short Answer what did Jesus say after Zacchaeus showed his transformed heart through his action? (Today salvation has come to this house.)

5. Multiple Choice: What is the main lesson of this story?
   a) Jesus changes lives
   b) Jesus likes to eat at people's houses
   c) Zacchaeus was rich

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: WRITING RACE

Matthew 16:24 (NIV) "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Supplies needed: Paper, Pens

Give each child a pen and paper. On Go, see who can write the verse out as many times as they can in 2 minutes. Extra points for legible handwriting.

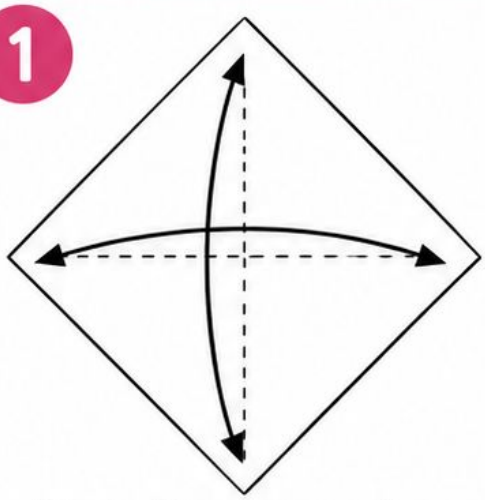
GAME

You can find a list of small group games at https://lmnetwork.com.au/small-group-games/

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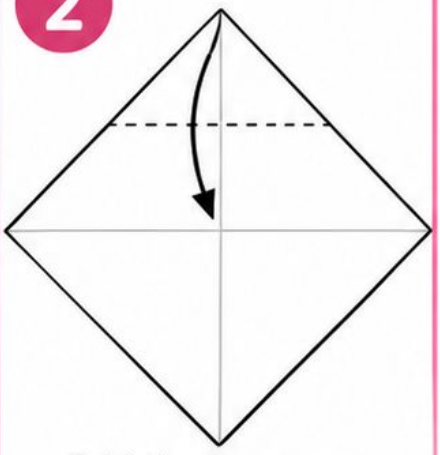
MAKE AN ORIGAMI HEART

1



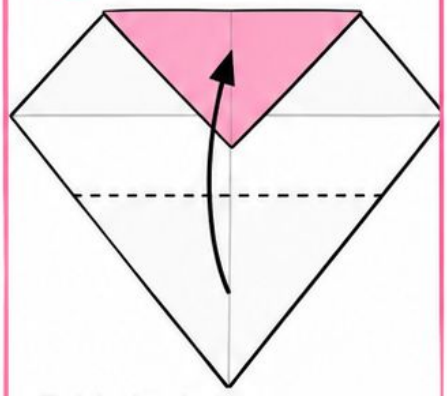
Start with a square piece of paper. Fold in half both ways to make creases, then unfold.

2



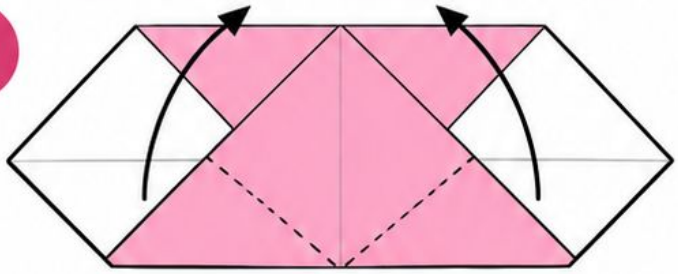
Fold the top corner down to the centre.

3



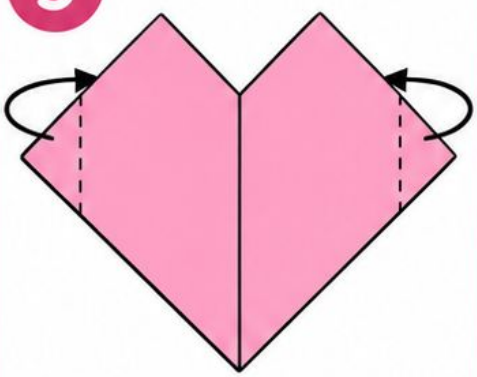
Fold the bottom corner up to the centre.

4



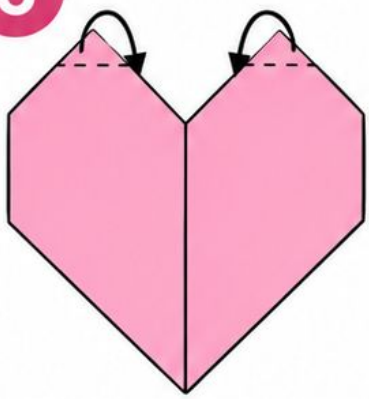
Fold the top sides in to the centre.

5



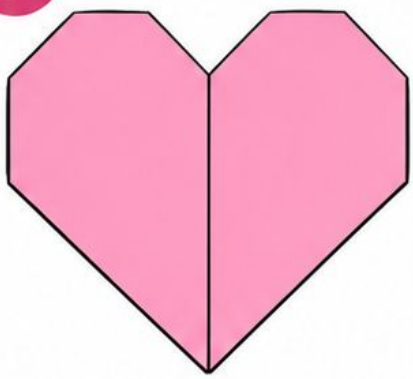
Fold the outer corners backwards.

6



Fold the top corners backwards.

7



All done!
You made a heart!