FEBRUARY 2022

# TODDLERS

WEEK FOUR

## BIBLE WORDS

"Do everything in love."
**1 CORINTHIANS 16:14, NIV**

Zacchaeus
**LUKE 19:1-10**

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves everyone.

## BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

The toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos.

The toddler curriculum is designed to be used in conjunction with the monthly crawler curriculum. Feel free to use both in your toddler classrooms.

**STORY TIME:**
- Act It

**CRAFT TIME:**
- Jesus in My Heart

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## STORY TIME

*Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Preschool Bible

**LEADER:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you! I need your help telling our Bible story. Today's true story from the Bible, (*hold up the Bible*) is about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus' job was to collect money from everyone in town. (*Go to each child and pretend to take a coin from them and put it in your pocket.*) But Zacchaeus took more money to keep for himself! (*Go back to each child and pretend to take another coin from them and put it in your pocket.*) That was wrong and made the people mad. Show me your mad faces. (*Pause.*)

"One day, Jesus came to town, and everyone was so excited to see Him, even Zacchaeus. Everyone, jump up and down and say, 'Yay Jesus!' (*Pause.*) But Zacchaeus was too short to see over all the people, so he climbed a tree. Pretend to climb a tree like Zacchaeus. (*Pause.*) Are we high enough to see over everyone? (*Pause.*) Let's climb a little higher. (*Pause.*) Can you see now? (*Put a hand over your eyes like a visor or binoculars.*) Yes! Zacchaeus saw Jesus, and Jesus saw him!

"Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down and take Him to his house. Everyone, climb down from your tree. (*Pause.*) Jesus loved Zacchaeus and wanted to be his friend, even though Zacchaeus had made bad choices. Zacchaeus was so happy. Give yourself a hug. (*Pause.*) Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus loved him and wanted to be his friend that he gave all the money back. Jesus loved Zacchaeus, and Jesus loves us, no matter what. **Jesus loves everyone.**"

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## CRAFT TIME

*Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Jesus" and "My Heart" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; dot markers; glue sticks; and a marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Jesus" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "My Heart" on cardstock, one per child. Write child's name on their paper.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to fill their heart with dot markers. Glue Jesus to the center of the heart.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**
**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus loves each and every one of us. Jesus loves us, even when we make bad choices like Zacchaeus.

"Hearts mean love, and you have a big love heart on your paper. Use the dot markers to fill in your heart. (*Pause.*) Great! Now glue Jesus to the middle of your heart. (*Help spread the glue and place the picture of Jesus.*) Super-duper! Jesus loves you. **Jesus loves everyone.**"

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