

Belief

LESSON 4 Juniors

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Seeks and Saves Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19

WORD OF WONDER: From John 3:16

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on Serve the City days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Let's start by doing our Declaration together. Remember these are truths from the Bible we can hold onto always.

Prayer of Invitation

God, thank You for always being with us. Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to be our teacher. Please help us to understand how big Your love is. Help us to always remember that no matter what, Jesus seeks and saves us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Bible Time Rhyme

I open my Bible, and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.

Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Luke 19:1–10](#) from the Bible. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

GOD BIG'S STORY SCRIPT

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a man named Zacchaeus (ZackEE-us), who met Jesus. Encourage the kids to say “Zacchaeus.” Let’s find out from the Bible what happened!

Today’s part of God’s big story is going to be fun! Listen carefully, because I’m going to tell you different actions to do during the story.

Jesus was coming through town one day. There was a man who lived there named Zacchaeus. Most people didn’t like him because he stole from them. Pretend to grab something. Pause to allow the kids to do the action. **Zacchaeus stole money from people. Give a thumbs down.** Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over all the other people. Can you pretend you’re looking for Jesus? Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

So Zacchaeus decided to climb a tree to see better. Pretend to climb a tree. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

When Jesus passed by, He saw Zacchaeus and told him to come down. Let’s pretend we are Zacchaeus coming down the tree. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

He told Zacchaeus that He wanted to go to his house! Zacchaeus came right down and welcomed Jesus to his home. Pretend to walk to your home. Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

The crowd wondered why Jesus would want to go visit the home of someone like Zacchaeus. But Zacchaeus told Jesus that he was sorry for what he had done.

Jesus told Zacchaeus he was saved. Clap your hands and cheer! Pause to allow the kids to do the action.

Jesus looked for Zacchaeus because He wanted to bring him back into the family—God’s family! What an amazing truth! Jesus didn’t just come for Zacchaeus; He came for all of us! He loves us and wants to know us too. Jesus seeks and saves us.

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Jesus and Zacchaeus God's Big Story!](#)

Worship

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SEEKS AND SAVES US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

When He sought out Zacchaeus, Jesus showed that no one is beyond being welcomed into God's kingdom if they're willing to turn away from the wrong way of living and toward Jesus. We see Jesus seeking and saving lost people throughout His ministry. He called Matthew the tax collector to follow Him ([Matthew 9:13](#)), talked with a Samaritan woman at the well ([John 4](#)), and told stories about lost things ([Luke 15](#)).

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

**God so loved the world. He gave His one
and only Son.**

—from [John 3:16](#)

Let's practice our Word of Wonder! Our Word of Wonder for the Hanging Out with Jesus series is from [John 3:16](#): **God so loved the world. He gave His one and only Son.** Practice saying the verse with the kids several times.

Our Word of Wonder tells us God loves the world. To help us remember that God loves us so much that He sent His son to the world to seek and save all of us, we'll "seek" and match the paper hearts to the paper worlds. There are blue circles (the world) and red hearts hidden around the room. When I tell you to, you'll all go around the room and seek—or search for—the worlds and bring them to the middle of the room. Then you'll seek the hearts and put them on top of the worlds. Every time you put a heart on the world, say the verse.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—*Point up to God*
- **SO LOVED**—*Hands on heart.*
- **THE WORLD**.—*Hands in a big circle over your head.*
- **HE GAVE HIS ONE**—*Point up with one finger.*
- **AND ONLY SON**.—*Hold your hands out on either side (like a cross).*
- **FROM JOHN 3:16**—*Hold your hands together as if opening a book.*

Prayer Journal Questions:

- What is something you love a lot?
- How much do you think God loves everyone in the world?

Watch the Word of Wonder Video