



Generous – Lesson I

2s and 3s

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8 “And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

Key Point: Everything belongs to God!

Bible Verse: Luke 19

SCHEDULE:

Center Time

around 10 minutes

Help the individuals transition by actively engaging them from the beginning. Try setting up centers to color, play with blocks and Play-Doh, or do puzzles.

Memory Verse

Use the Memory Verse page and images to go over the memory verse by placing them in the correct order on the board (personal or pocket chart).

Coloring Sheet

Big Group Time

Lesson

- Read through the lesson below. For a shortened version, just read the bolded words.
- Within the lesson, there are numbers that correspond to the story point pictures. For example, (1) corresponds to the first story point and picture, and so on.
- Allow individuals to place pictures on the board (personal or pocket chart) in sequential order.

- Key Point
- Use the review questions to check for understanding.

Repeat Key Point & Memory Verse

Use the activities below for repetition of the story points, key points, and memory verse.

- Act out the Story.
- Bean Bag Toss: restate part of the story, memory verse, or key point when tossing.

Activity

Five Finger Gospel (optional)

LESSON:

This is a story from Luke 19 in the Bible. **Jesus went to the town of Jericho** (1). A man named **Zacchaeus**, who **was the chief tax collector**, lived **there** (2). He had lots of money but had not obeyed God's law. **Zacchaeus had taken money away from the people** of Jericho and kept it for himself. **He loved money** and wealth **more than** he loved **God** (3) and others.

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus, but he is too short (4) to see over all of the people. **So, Zacchaeus runs and climbs a tree** that is beside the road **since Jesus is coming that way** (5). **When Jesus** comes by the tree, he **looks up at Zacchaeus. Jesus says, “Zacchaeus! Come down! Hurry! I am coming to your house today!”** (6)

Zacchaeus climbs down quickly. He is so excited to be taking Jesus to his house! But the people of Jericho are mad! They say, “Jesus is going

to the house of a sinner! Zacchaeus does not obey God! He takes money from all of us!” While the people of Jericho are busy being mad, **Zacchaeus looks up at Jesus and says, “Lord, I will give half of all of my wealth to the poor (7).** And if I have cheated and taken money I should not have from the people of Jericho then I will give them back four times as much as I have taken!” **Zacchaeus is sorry that he loved money more than he loved God (8) and others. He confesses to Jesus the sin he had done (9).**

Jesus tells Zacchaeus and the people of Jericho, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” **Jesus generously forgives Zacchaeus (10).** Meeting Jesus helped Zacchaeus see that he was a sinner and that he needed to be rescued. Zacchaeus was willing to admit he was wrong. He wanted to start giving freely and sharing with others like God had freely given to him.

Key Point: Everything belongs to God!

Review Questions

1. **Who is generous to us and gives us everything we have?** (God!)
2. **What is wealth?** (All that we have: money, toys, clothes, food.)
3. **What did Zacchaeus do with his money before he knew Jesus?** (Kept it for himself.)
4. **What does God want us to do with all that he gives us?** (Freely give and share!)
5. **What did Zacchaeus do with his money after he met Jesus and Jesus forgave Zacchaeus?** (He freely gave more than he had taken from others.)

ACTIVITIES:

Up a Tree

Supplies

- Zacchaeus worksheet (one per child)
- Bag of green tissue paper scraps (one per bin)
- Crayons

Give each child a worksheet. Have them draw Zacchaeus in the tree and color the treetop and the trunk. Then have them glue green tissue paper scrap “leaves” to the treetop. As they work, remind them how desperate Zacchaeus was to see Jesus that he climbed up in a tree.

Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn’t matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is.

Paybacks

Supplies

Coins (10-12 per bin)

Hold out some coins. Show them to the children. Remind them that Zacchaeus recognized his sin and said he would give away half of his wealth to the poor (take away half of your coins). Remind the children that Zacchaeus also said he would pay back four times what he owed to the people of Jericho. Say, **“So, if Zacchaeus owed someone one coin (hold up one coin), he would pay them back with four”** (hold up four coins). Repeat for emphasis. Help the children to see that Zacchaeus was not only giving, but giving freely and generously when his heart had been changed.