

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Cycle A

Focus: It is never too late to change our ways.

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: *Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about giving up some of the time in lives for others, just as Jesus did for us. This week we are going to hear about a tax collector, called Zacchaeus, who finds out just what Jesus is all about.*

Today we will talk about how God's forgives us when we are sorry for things we have done wrong.

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: *Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

Loving God, we know you want us to do good things. Help us to see the times that we turn away from you and do wrong. Help us to make these wrongs right. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Song/Movement (Hand out Attendance stickers at this time)

“There is power in the name of Jesus” track 19 from America’s 25 Favorite Bible Songs
Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

There is _____ in the name of Jesus. (3x)

There is _____ in that wonderful name.

Blank is : Power, Glory, Healing, Salvation.

There is salvation in that wonderful name. (2 extras times, fades out.)

Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

Come down, for I want to stay with you.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: In today’s Gospel story, we are going to hear about a man called Zacchaeus who comes to meet Jesus. Jesus told him to, “Come down, for I want to stay with you”.

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: The Beginners Bible, p444-449 “A Small Man”

Ask: What did Zacchaeus do wrong in the story? Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree? What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? Does anyone know why Jesus picked Zacchaeus out of all the people?

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Reflect on the Reading:

Jesus picked Zacchaeus out of the crowd because he knew he was a sinner. He knew he stole from the town people, but he wanted to make him right with God. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his heart changed and he decided to change his life. He told Jesus he would do the right things and repay all the people he stole from. God will always forgive those who are truly sorry.

Ask:

Do you remember feeling sad or bad after doing something wrong?(hurting your friend’s feeling, fighting with your brother or sister, etc.) This happens because the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and let’s us know when we have done something that goes against God. It is not until we have said we are sorry or made the wrong right that we start to feel better. When you do start to feel better that is because God has forgiven you.

Gospel Activity

See the Filler Options Sheet if you need more activities.

Coloring Page- Jesus and Zacchaeus

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: “We Believe!”)

Ask: *Do we believe in God, who is kind and forgiving?*

Do we believe in Jesus, who teaches us to love and do the right thing?

Do we believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us change our hearts for God?

Sending Forth

Say: Let’s try to think about the things we have done wrong and ask God to help us make these wrongs right.(by saying we are sorry, sharing , etc.)

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “Amazing Grace” track 24 from “America’s 25 Favorite…” while children put away any materials and line up. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.



Jesus and Zacchaeus
Luke 19