

# GOD IS OUR FRIEND

## BE YOURSELF

### LESSON POINTS

#### Bible Story | Zacchaeus

##### Luke 19:1-9

- Jesus was in Jericho.
- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.
- He was a short man that no one liked because he was a tax collector.
- When Jesus was passing by, Zacchaeus decided to climb a sycamore tree so he could see.
- Jesus saw Zacchaeus and wanted to go to his house.
- Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down so He could eat at his house.
- When Zacchaeus saw how Jesus accepted him, he became sorry for how he had treated people.
- Zacchaeus decided to give to the poor and start treating people right.
- Because Jesus was Zacchaeus' friend, He accepted him the way he was.

### MINISTRY IDEA

#### Asking Forgiveness

Jesus instructs us to ask God to forgive us when we mess up. This is for our hearts' benefit to remain cleansed and to behave as He tells us. Have children pray and ask God to forgive them of anything that they know in their heart that they have done wrong. Remind children that they are forgiven, God does not see them as sinners. They are saints!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of things did Zacchaeus do to his friends?
2. Even though Zacchaeus was a mean man, how did Jesus act towards him?
3. Tell of a time when you met someone who was mean.
4. How should we treat these mean people?
5. What did Zacchaeus do after Jesus showed kindness towards him?

### DRAMA SYNOPSIS #95

SpeezMaker messes up by telling a friend's secret. He doesn't think his friends like him anymore. Virginia helps Speez to see that we all mess up sometimes, and that true friends treat each other right when things are good and bad. Friends should be able to be themselves all the time.

### ACTIVITY IDEAS

#### Searching for Jesus

The children will create binoculars. Have the children glue two toilet paper rolls or styrofoam cups (with the bottoms cut out of them) together and let them use construction paper, stickers, or markers to decorate them. When they are done, they can attach a piece of yarn to each cup or toilet paper roll to make a strap to hang around their neck. The leader can discuss with the children how Zacchaeus climbed up in the tree because he couldn't see Jesus.

#### Growing Trees

The children will make trees to represent the sycamore tree that Zacchaeus climbed. Have each child trace their forearm on a piece of brown paper and their hand on a piece of green paper; then cut both of them out. Have them glue these down in the shape of a tree on a piece of blue construction paper. When they are done gluing down their "trees," give them crayons and have them draw Zacchaeus sitting in the tree.

### LESSON OBJECTIVE

Children will learn that God is our Friend no matter how they act.

### LIFE APPLICATION

Through learning that God is our Friend, children will see that God loves them exactly like they are.

### MEMORY VERSE

But I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I heard from my Father.  
John 15:15b