

Rescue

God's Rescue Plan as demonstrated through the story of Zacchaeus. This lesson highlights how Jesus seeks and saves the lost.

Theme: God's Rescue Plan

Bible Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Key Verse: Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Big Idea: God's rescue plan involves seeking out and saving those who are far from Him.

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

1. Understand that Jesus came to rescue sinners.
 2. Jesus is the Hebrew word for salvation or rescue.
 3. Learn that no one is too lost for God's love.
 4. Feel encouraged to accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him.
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Lesson Outline

1. Welcome & Opening (10 minutes)

- **Greeting:** Welcome each child warmly.
 - **Prayer:** Thank God for His love and plan to rescue us.
 - **Icebreaker:** "Have you ever climbed a tree? What did you see from up there?"
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2. Bible Have students write CD1 92 by all scripture references so they can cross reference with their notebook.

- **Tell the Story (Luke 19:1-10):**
 - Share how Zacchaeus was a tax collector who wasn't liked by others because he cheated people.
 - Explain how Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus because he was short.
 - Highlight how Jesus stopped, called Zacchaeus by name, and invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house.
 - Explain Zacchaeus' joyful response—he repented, promised to return what he had stolen, and gave generously.
 - End with Jesus' statement: "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."
 - **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
 - How did Zacchaeus change after meeting Jesus?
 - What does this story teach us about Jesus' love?
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3. Activities (20 minutes)

Option 1: "Zacchaeus in the Tree" Craft

- **Materials:** Construction paper, markers, glue, popsicle sticks.
- **Activity:** Create a tree with Zacchaeus peeking out, reminding kids how Jesus sees and loves everyone.

Option 2: Seek and Save Game

- **Activity:** Hide paper hearts around the room. Let kids “seek” the hearts, representing Jesus seeking and saving the lost.

Option 3: Role Play

- Act out the story of Zacchaeus, with kids taking turns being Zacchaeus, Jesus, and the crowd.
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4. Life Application (10 minutes)

- **Discussion:**
 - How does Jesus rescue us today?
 - What should we do when we know Jesus loves us, just like Zacchaeus did?
 - **Memory Verse Activity:** Write Luke 19:10 on a board and practice it with hand motions or as a call-and-response.
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5. Closing (5 minutes)

- **Review:** Recap the story and main points.
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus for rescuing us and ask for help to follow Him.

Take-Home Sheet: Include the memory verse, a summary of the story, and a coloring page of Zacchaeus in the tree.