

Lesson Plan – Acceptance 1 Primaries

Text: Luke 19:1-10
Age group: Primaries (Grade 1-2)
Group size: 51 Primaries
Time: 30 min

Learning Goals

1. Identify

Materials Required

- Spark Story Bible
- “YES” sign
- “NO” sign

Session Outline

Gathering activities

- **Welcome (3 min)** – Have students gather around you and be seated. Introduce yourself and have other ministry team members present do the same.
- **Opening prayer (1 min)** – Ask the students to pray with you, repeating after you and praying the following:
 - Loving God, we are your children. Help us to love one another. Amen.

Exploration activities

- **Reading of Luke 19:1-10 (5 min)** – Tell students that today we are going to read a story in the Bible about Jesus and a man named Zacchaeus.
 - Read the story from the Spark Story Bible, starting at pg 400.
 - After the story is read, ask a few questions:
 - What happened in this story?
 - Who was Zacchaeus?
 - What did the crowd think of Zacchaeus? Why?
 - What did Jesus think of Zacchaeus? Why?
- **Could you be friends with...? (10 min)** – Tell students we are going to play a game! Have two leaders be sign holders – one will go to one side of the room with the “yes” sign, and one will go to the other side with the “no” sign. You are going to ask them a question. If they want to answer that question with a “yes”, they should go to the side of the room where the “yes” sign is. If they would answer “no,” they should go to the side of the room with the “no” sign. Tell them these questions have no right or

wrong answers – they can answer however they want! To ensure they understand, ask a sample question: Do you like ice cream?

- Questions: Could you be friends with someone who is older than you? Could you be friends with someone who goes to a different school than you? Could you be friends with someone who lies? Could you be friends with someone who eats different food than you? Could you be friends with someone who is in jail? Could you be friends with someone who has different colored hair? Could you be friends with a bully? Could you be friends with someone who is sad? Could you be friends with someone who is nice?
 - After each question, try to ask one student on each side why they picked that answer.
- **Discussion (5 min)** After you have run out of questions, split the students into 3 groups. Have the leader of each group ask these questions:
 - Why is it hard to be friends with people sometimes?
 - Remember how the crowd wanted to leave Zacchaeus out, and didn't want him to have dinner with Jesus? Who are the people left out at your school?
 - Who are people in the world that get treated better or worse than other people?
 - Remind me: how did Jesus treat Zacchaeus?
 - How should we treat people?
 - How does God want us to treat people?

Closing activities

- **Closing prayer (1 min)**– Close the group in prayer.

Lesson Plan – Acceptance 2

Text: Luke 19:1-10
Age group: Kindies and Primaries (K-2)
Group size: 23 Kindies, 51 Primaries
Time: 30 min

Materials

- Spark Story Bible
- Book: Wings by Christopher Myers
- Zacchaeus story script (attached)

Gathering activities

- Welcome (1 min) – Have students sit in a circle. The leaders will remind them of their names.
- Opening prayer (1 min) – Ask the students to pray with you, repeating after you and praying the following:
 - Loving God, we are your children. Help us to love one another. Amen.

Exploration activities

- Compliment Tag (8 min) – Tell the students we are going to play a game called compliment tag. *Break Kindies up into 3 groups; break Primaries up into 5 groups.* Students sit in a circle and decide on one person to be “it” first (or the group leader can decide). This student has to tag another person in the group. However, unlike a typical game of tag where you run and use your hands, this game requires you to tag a person with your words (they will remain seated in a circle and just call each other by name to “tag” them). The student who is “it” will say another student’s name in the group, give her a compliment, and then say, “Tag you’re it.” The person who gets tagged responds by saying, “Thank you,” and the person who gave the compliment responds with, “You’re welcome.” The person tagged then picks someone else and so on until everyone has had a chance to give and receive a compliment.
 - After the game, discuss the activity within your group. Was it easy to give someone a compliment? Do you think it is possible to practice giving compliments on your own? How did it feel inside when you had a compliment given to you? How many compliments do you think you could give each day? (Always ask students to say more or follow up with “why?” if they give one word answers.)
- Read “Wings” (5 min) – Have students join back together in a large group and sit where they can see and hear you. Tell them we are now going to read a book. Show them the cover and read the title. Ask them to guess what the book is about. Then begin reading. Reminder: This text and story help us to understand that no matter

the reason for one's ostracism, to experience acceptance means being truly seen as the people God created us to be.

- After the reading is finished, ask students the following questions:
 - What happened in this book?
 - How did the other kids treat Ikarus? How did that make him feel?
 - Why did the narrator of this story feel like she should stick up for Ikarus? OR What did the narrator of this story and Ikarus have in common?
 - What happened at the end of the story? (They became friends.)
- Act out Zacchaeus story from Spark Story Bible (5 min) – Tell the students we are now going to hear a story from the Bible about Jesus and a man named Zacchaeus. Enlist the counselors to help you act out the story. Give them the attached scripts. One person will be the narrator, one will be Jesus, another will be Zacchaeus and the rest will be the crowd.
- Discussion of Zacchaeus passage - KINDIES (5 min) – Split out students into same groups they were in for compliment tag. Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - What happened in that story?
 - Who was Zacchaeus?
 - Why didn't the people in Jericho like Zacchaeus?
 - What did Jesus think of Zacchaeus?
 - How is this Bible story like the story Wings we read?
 - How should we treat people who are different than us? (Striving for answers like "love them," "the Golden Rule," etc.)
- Discussion of Zacchaeus passage - PRIMARIES (5 min) – Split out students into same groups they were in for compliment tag. Ask the following questions for discussion:
 - How is this Bible story like the story Wings we read?
 - There aren't kids with wings in your school, right? What do you think the wings represent in this book? (Things that make us different.)
 - What is something that makes you different than other kids in your school?
 - How would you like to be treated by everyone?
 - How should we treat people who are different than us? (Striving for answers like "love them," "the Golden Rule," etc.)
- Closing prayer (1 min)– Close the time in prayer.

Compliment Tag (8 min) – Students sit in a circle and decide on one person to be “it” first (or the group leader can decide). This student has to tag another person in the group. However, unlike a typical game of tag where you run and use your hands, this game requires you to tag a person with your words (they will remain seated in a circle and just call each other by name to “tag” them). The student who is “it” will say another student’s name in the group, give her a compliment, and then say, “Tag you’re it.” The person who gets tagged responds by saying, “Thank you,” and the person who gave the compliment responds with, “You’re welcome.” The person tagged then picks someone else and so on until everyone has had a chance to give and receive a compliment.

After the game, discuss the activity within your group.

- Was it easy to give someone a compliment?
- Do you think it is possible to practice giving compliments on your own?
- How did it feel inside when you had a compliment given to you?
- How many compliments do you think you could give each day?

(Always ask students to say more or follow up with “why?” if they give one word answers.)

Zacchaeus (from the Spark Story Bible)

Narrator: Many people lived in a town called Jericho. One of them was a rich man named Zacchaeus. He had a big house, a big yard, and lots of money! Zacchaeus was rich because of his job. He collected taxes from the people for the Roman leaders. However, Zacchaeus always took *extra* money from the people and kept it for himself! The people did not like Zacchaeus!

One day, Zacchaeus saw a crowd of people gathering along the side of the road and heard someone say,

Crowd Member: Jesus is coming!

Zacchaeus: Jesus? Who is Jesus? He must be important. I want to see him too!

Narrator: Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he had a problem. Zacchaeus was short, too short to see Jesus from the back of the crowd. He needed to get in front of the taller people, but he knew they didn’t like him.

Zacchaeus: They’ll never let me in front!

Narrator: Then, he had an idea. He found a tree next to the road where Jesus would walk. The tree was just the right size for Zacchaeus, so he climbed the tree. Now he could see everything!

He could see the road, he could see the crowd, and he could even see Jesus! Zacchaeus got excited. Step, step, step. Jesus came closer and closer until he was right under Zacchaeus's tree. Suddenly, Jesus stopped! He looked up and saw Zacchaeus sitting in the tree. Uh-oh. Was Zacchaeus in trouble? Maybe Jesus didn't like Zacchaeus either!

Jesus started to talk to Zacchaeus.

Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down from that tree. I want to have dinner at your house today!

Zacchaeus: What? Jesus wants to come to *my* house?!

Narrator: Quickly, Zacchaeus climbed down the tree.

Zacchaeus: This way, Jesus. This is the way to my house.

Narrator: The crowd grumbled. They were upset!

Crowd Member 2: Zacchaeus is a bad man!

Narrator: But Jesus did not hate Zacchaeus. He went to Zacchaeus's house. While they were eating dinner, Jesus told Zacchaeus,

Jesus: God wants everyone to be a part of God's family and to care for others.

Narrator: Zacchaeus listened closely. Jesus cared for Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus could care for others! He knew just what to do. Zacchaeus told Jesus,

Zacchaeus: I will give back all of the extra money I took from the people. I'll even give back more than I took!

Narrator: Zacchaeus met Jesus and changed forever. He cared about others!

The end.

Discussion of Zacchaeus passage - PRIMARIES (5 min) – Split out students into same groups they were in for compliment tag. Ask the following questions for discussion (and feel free to ask other relevant questions based on discussion!):

- How is this Bible story like the story Wings we read?
- There aren't kids with wings in your school, right? What do you think the wings represent in this book? (Things that make us different.)
- What is something that makes you different than other kids in your school?
- How would you like to be treated by everyone?
- How should we treat people who are different than us? (Striving for answers like "love them," "the Golden Rule," etc.)