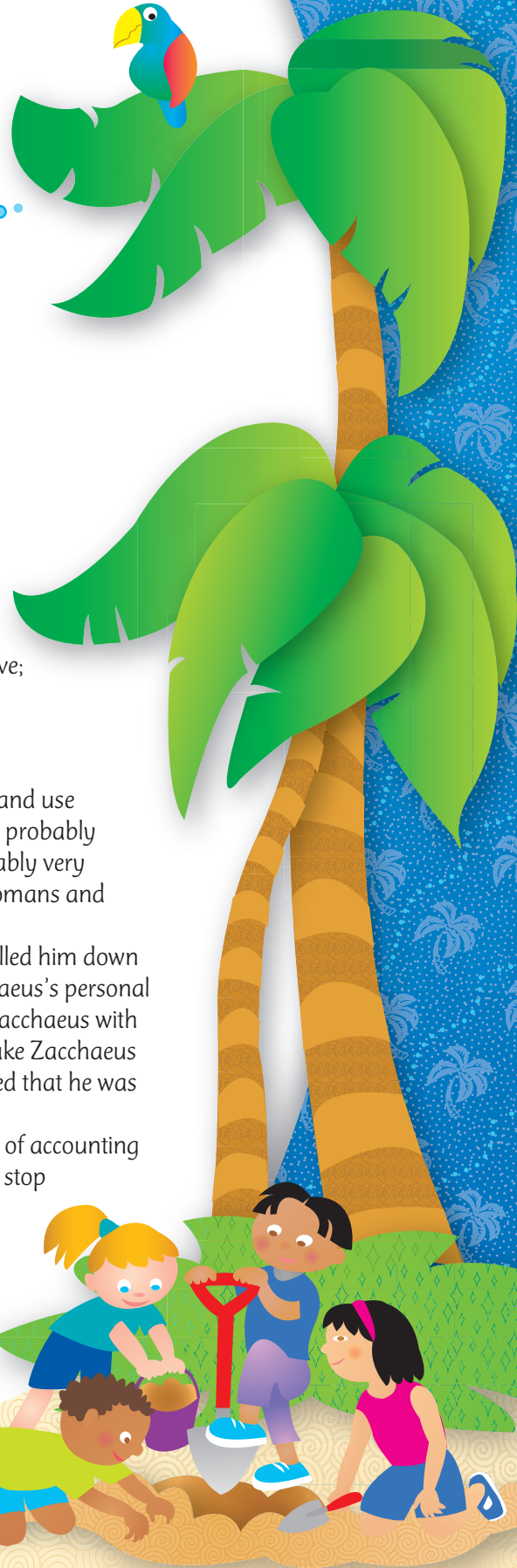




## SESSION FOUR

# Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus



## SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

*[Love] is not easily angered.* 1 Corinthians 13:5

## LESSON FOCUS

God's love is forgiving.

## BIBLE AIMS

During this session, each child may

1. TELL that Jesus showed love and forgave Zacchaeus;
2. DESCRIBE a situation in which children can forgive others and show God's love;
3. THANK God for His love and forgiveness.

## TEACHER'S DEVOTIONAL

Some of us are planners. We neatly file all records, regularly balance the books and use spreadsheets to calculate our debts and assets. Zacchaeus, the tax collector, was probably a planner. Judging by his wealth and his neighbors' dislike of him, he was probably very thorough. He may have even kept a neat set of DOUBLE books—one for the Romans and one for himself.

Planners probably also understand Zacchaeus's initial shock when Jesus called him down from the tree and invited Himself to dinner. That appointment was not in Zacchaeus's personal planner—not even in pencil! But in one act and one statement, Jesus lavished Zacchaeus with a love, forgiveness and acceptance that Zacchaeus had never known. It didn't take Zacchaeus long to recover his balance. He realized the great grace he'd received and declared that he was giving back fourfold to anyone he'd cheated!

Whether or not we balance our books and file our receipts, there is one area of accounting in which we can relax: We need never keep any record of wrong! Jesus tells us to stop keeping our own double sets of books—our "Christian" set and another set in which we note in permanent ink unpaid debts. As forgiven followers of Jesus, we are free to forgive all debts, burn the old records and let Him free us from the pain, bitterness and frustration bound up in every one of those old accounts. The forgiveness God lavishes in Jesus' name frees you to focus on giving your students the greatest treasure ever—God's amazing love!

# Bible Learning Activities

(40-45 minutes)

The activity marked **◇** will be shared during Together Time.

## Materials Checklist

For each teacher and child—

- ◆ Name Tag

## Materials Checklist

- ◆ *SonTreasure Island* CD and player
- ◆ large beach umbrella
- ◆ beach blankets or towels
- ◆ island clothing and shoes (brightly colored shirts, pants, shorts, flip-flops, straw hats, sunglasses, swim trunks, etc.)
- ◆ beaded or shell necklaces, rings and bracelets
- ◆ treasure chest or large container
- ◆ cooler filled with toy or plastic foods
- ◆ disposable beach-design cups, napkins and plates
- ◆ small beach balls
- ◆ discarded or toy cameras
- ◆ sand toys
- ◆ maracas

## WELCOME TIME

**PROCEDURE:** Your personal greeting conveys to each child the importance of his or her presence. Establishing a warm and friendly relationship with a child increases his or her receptivity to concepts you'll be sharing during the session.

Assist each child in choosing an activity to participate in first.

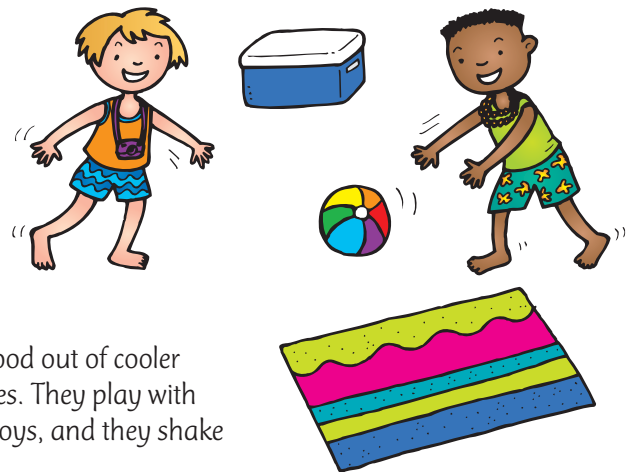
## ◇ THE SANDY BEACH (DRAMATIC PLAY) ISLAND PARTY

**PREPARATION:** Set up beach umbrella. Spread beach blankets or towels on floor. Place beach clothing and jewelry in a treasure chest or large container. Play "Island Sounds" from *SonTreasure Island* CD.

**PROCEDURE:** Children take turns dressing in beach clothing and wearing jewelry. They take food out of cooler and place it on napkins and plates. They play with beach balls, cameras and sand toys, and they shake maracas as music plays.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Who has been to a party? What did you do at the party? Parties are a lot of fun. Today we are going to have fun in the sun at a beach party. Let's start the party!

Jack, you were kind to give the camera to Donny. Let's see how many kind things we can do at our party! One kind thing we can do is forgive others. "Forgiving" means being kind to people who have been mean to us. God forgives us when we disobey Him. We can tell God that we are sorry for disobeying. God's love is forgiving. Let's thank God for His love and forgiveness. Dear God, thank You that You love us and forgive us when we do wrong things. Please help us to forgive others. In Jesus' name, amen.



# THE TREASURE CHEST (BLOCKS)

## TIDE POOL BLOCKS

**PREPARATION:** Cut large oblong or round pieces of blue construction paper to represent tide pools. Cut small rectangles and squares from tan construction paper to represent sand.

**PROCEDURE:** Children build round tide pools using blocks. They place construction-paper “sand” inside and around tide pools. Then they put tide pool items and Scenic Island block tide pool creatures (Starfish, Sea Urchin, Seaweed) inside tide pools. Children touch and play with tide pool items and use magnifying glasses to examine items.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** A tide pool is a rocky area at the edge of the ocean that is filled with ocean water. Many kinds of plants and creatures live there. When you visit a tide pool, you need to be careful not to hurt the plants and animals. Today we are going to build our own tide pools and pretend we are taking care of these special marine animals.

What are some things you can do for marine animals in a tide pool? Taking good care of animals and people is important. Today we’re going to hear what Jesus did when He met someone who did not take care of people. That man had been unfair and had cheated people.

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children use scissors to cut construction paper water and sand.



### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Scenic Island blocks made in Session 1
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ blue and tan construction paper
- ◆ blocks in various shapes and sizes
- ◆ tide pools items (rocks, shells, etc.)
- ◆ toy or stuffed items found in tide pools (starfish, sea urchins, crabs, etc.)
- ◆ magnifying glasses

## COOKY ISLAND (ART)

### PALM TREES IN THE BREEZE

**PREPARATION:** Cut brown construction paper into one 12x3-inch (30.5x7.5-cm) strip for each child. Photocopy onto green construction paper one copy of Tree Top Pattern for each child. Cut out. Photocopy onto white construction paper three Coconut Patterns for each child.

**PROCEDURE:** Children use scissors to fringe edges of Tree Tops to look like palm trees. Children glue Tree Tops to top of brown strips. Children use markers or crayons to color coconuts brown and cut them out. They glue coconuts onto palm trees.

**NOTE:** If you will be adding to the mural made in Session 1, use masking tape loops to attach completed trees to island.

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Who has eaten coconut? Coconuts grow on palm trees. They are round and have a hard shell. Today we are making palm trees with coconuts.

Diana, what if it was your turn to glue coconuts onto your palm tree, but someone pushed ahead of you and took your glue? What would be a wrong thing to do? What



### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Tree Top Pattern (p. 54)
- ◆ Coconut Patterns (p. 54)
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ brown construction paper
- ◆ ruler
- ◆ green and white construction paper
- ◆ brown markers or crayons
- ◆ glue

would be a right thing to do? Forgiving the person would be a right thing to do. Forgiving means showing love and kindness instead of staying angry when someone is mean to you. Forgiving someone who has been unkind to you is a way to show God's love. God's love is forgiving. Let's thank God for helping us to forgive others. Lead child in a short prayer, thanking God.

**YOUNGER CHILD OPTION:** Precut the coconuts for children. Hold the Tree Tops while children cut fringes.

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children glue small squares of green and brown tissue to palm tree tops and trunks.

### Materials Checklist

- ◆ Fish Patterns (p. 55)
- ◆ card stock
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ pencil
- ◆ craft foam
- ◆ green yarn
- ◆ water or hair gel that has been colored blue
- ◆ small aquarium rocks
- ◆ small shells
- ◆ duct tape
- For each child—
  - ◆ sandwich-sized resealable plastic bag
- Optional—
  - ◆ toy fish
  - ◆ magnifying glasses

## JACQUES' AQUARIUM

(SCIENCE AND WATER ACTIVITIES)

### AQUARIUM BAGS

**PREPARATION:** Photocopy Fish Patterns onto card stock. Cut out. Trace shapes onto craft foam, making several fish for each child. Cut yarn into approximately 2-inch (5-cm) lengths to represent seaweed. Fill plastic bags  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with blue water or gel.

**PROCEDURE:** Children add aquarium rocks, craft-foam fish and small shells to bags. (Optional: Children add toy fish.) Seal and tape bags closed. Children gently squish bags, moving fish and shells. (Optional: Children use magnifying glasses to examine items in their bags.)

**KEY CONVERSATION:** Fish need water to help them breathe. Who has a fish at home? What are some things you do to take care of your fish? An aquarium is a container where fish live. Let's make aquariums so that our fish can have a place to live.

Monique, thank you for using kind words when Jared took the shell you wanted. I'm glad you didn't grab it back. Our Bible says, *[Love] is not easily angered. Today, we are going to hear a story from our Bible about how Jesus showed love and forgiveness to someone who was unkind.*

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT:** Children add a small amount of glitter to bags to make water sparkle.

## CLEANUP TIME

Signal Cleanup Time each session by playing a song from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Sing with children as they assist in cleanup. To involve a child in helping with chores, bend to child's eye level, call him or her by name and give one simple direction at a time. **Davis, please put the shells in the red basket and then you may sit on your chair. Thank you for picking up the shells.** As each child finishes cleanup tasks, he or she moves to area where teacher is ready to begin Together Time activities.



# Together Time

(10-15 minutes)

For younger children, use only the activities marked ♦.

♦ **SONG:** Play “Before All Time” from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Sing song once with children. Then sing again and lead children in motions while singing song.

♦ **WELCOME/JACQUES PARROT PUPPET:** Puppet enters. **Hello, boys and girls. Did you have a good breakfast? I’m kind of hungry. Do any of you have some food I could eat?** (Invite volunteers to place one seed in parrot’s mouth. Quickly move seeds to your free hand. Children can eat the rest of their seeds.) **My mom made my favorite coconut pancakes this morning, but they were all gone by the time I went into the kitchen for breakfast. How would you feel if your favorite breakfast was all gone? I was so angry! I started to yell and cry, but my mom wouldn’t listen to me. I wonder why yelling and crying didn’t work? Do you know why?** Volunteers respond. **Hmm. You are right. I was really wrong to yell at my mom. I need to ask my mom to forgive me. I know that she will because I’m really sorry and she loves me a lot. Bye-bye.** Puppet exits.

## Materials Checklist

- ♦ Bible
- ♦ *SonTreasure Island CD* and player
- ♦ Jacques Parrot Puppet

### For each child—

- ♦ small handful of shelled sunflower seeds

♦ **FINGER PLAY:** “The Sea”

God made the sea.  
The waves tickle me!  
God made the fish  
Who swim in the sea.



Point up.



Wiggle arms like a fish swimming.



Lift arms in circle over head.



Dig with shovel.

God made the sun  
And God made the breeze.  
I take my sand shovel  
And dig by the sea.

♦ **SHARING:** Some of you went to a beach party today! Stefanie, I saw someone take your camera away from you. You could have been angry. But, you forgave and asked to have it back. That is showing God’s love. God doesn’t want us to hurt others when we feel angry. He is glad when we forgive others.

♦ **BIBLE VERSE:** Hold Bible open. **When are some times you feel angry? I feel angry sometimes, too. But I ask God to help me not say or do anything that hurts other people. God will help us learn to forgive instead of staying angry. God’s love is forgiving. Listen to what our Bible tells us. [Love] is not easily angered.** Have children repeat verse.

♦ **SONG:** Play “Treasure Forever” from CD and lead children in singing and doing motions for song.

♦ **PRAYER:** Let’s tell God “thank You” for His love and forgiveness. Lead children in saying the words “thank You” together. Then end the prayer by saying, **Dear God, thank You for loving us and forgiving us. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

♦ **TRANSITION:** Our Bible story today is about how Jesus showed love and forgave a man that others did not like.

# Bible Story/Application

(10-15 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Jesus Forgives Me big book from Teaching Resources
- ◆ small tree branch
- ◆ crayons or markers

For each child—

- ◆ Session 4 Treasure Guide

**PREPARATION:** Before class, cut small branch from tree. Prefold *Treasure Guide* pages to form storybooks, and then reopen pages. In class, children will find it easier to refold the page.

## JESUS FORGIVES ZACCHAEUS

(Open Bible to Luke 19 and place Bible in front of you. Read story from *Jesus Forgives Me* big book.)

Show small tree branch. **When have you climbed a tree?** Volunteers respond. **Listen to find out why a man named Zacchaeus climbed a tree.**

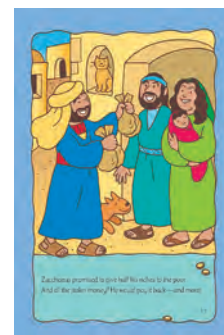
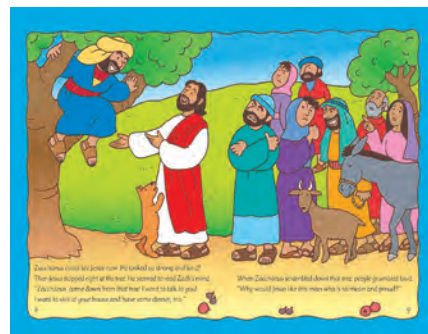
### NO ONE LIKES ZACCHAEUS

Zach collected taxes for the king far, far away.  
When Zacchaeus asked for money, the people had to pay.  
But no one liked Zacchaeus much. He was not very good.  
When he came to get the money, he took more than he should.  
Zacchaeus took the money and then sent some to the king.  
But he kept all the rest of it and bought a lot of things!  
Zacchaeus knew that what he did was really very wrong.  
He had no friends to share with him, and nowhere to belong.  
One morning at the marketplace he heard some people say,  
“Jesus and His friends are coming to our town today!”  
Zacchaeus hurried to the street where Jesus soon would be.  
But poor Zacchaeus was too short. Zacchaeus could not see!  
He knew he had no time to lose. He had to think quickly.  
He grabbed onto a branch or two and climbed up in a tree.  
Zacchaeus could see Jesus now. He looked so strong and kind!  
Then Jesus stopped right at the tree. He seemed to read Zach’s mind.

### SOMEONE LOVES ZACCHAEUS

“Zacchaeus, come down from that tree! I want to talk to you!  
I want to visit at your house and have some dinner, too.”  
When Zacchaeus scrambled down that tree, people grumbled loud.  
“Why would Jesus like this man who is so mean and proud?”  
Zacchaeus was ashamed about how greedy he had been.  
Could Jesus really like him? Would He want to be his friend?  
Zacchaeus knew that what he did was very wrong, you know.  
But Jesus forgave Zacchaeus. He loved him even so.  
Zacchaeus promised to give half his riches to the poor.  
And all the stolen money? He would pay it back—and more!

Jesus knows that there are times when you do wrong things, too.  
But, like Zacchaeus, you can know that Jesus forgives you!



## CONCLUSION

Jesus loved and forgave Zacchaeus. When we do wrong things, we can ask God to forgive us. We know that God will love and forgive us, too. God's love is forgiving! Pray aloud with children saying, **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us not to say or do wrong things. Help us to forgive others. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## APPLICATION

Teachers and helpers sit at tables with children. Pass out *Treasure Guide* page and crayons or markers. Children fold page to make mini-storybook.

To review the Bible story, children follow along as you read the "Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus" story. **Why didn't the people in the town like Zacchaeus?** (He stole their money.) **Who did Zacchaeus want to see?** (Jesus.) **What did Jesus say when He saw Zacchaeus?** ("I want to go to your house.") **Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house to show Zacchaeus that He loved him, even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his wrong actions.**

Children unfold mini-storybook and repeat Bible verse after you. **What do you feel like doing when you are angry?** Volunteers respond. **God can help you to be kind instead of staying angry.** Children complete "Forgiving Friends" activity. **What are some ways you can show God's love and forgive someone who has hurt you?** (Be kind even when someone has been mean to you. Wait patiently even when someone has pushed you.)

# Recreation Game

(10-15 minutes)

## UNDERWATER SWIM

**PROCEDURE:** Place stuffed marine animals on the ground. Spread blanket or sheet on the ground over the animals. Children stand around perimeter of blanket or sheet and pick up edge. Play music. Lead children in gently moving blanket or sheet up and down to make waves. One by one, children pretend to swim under the "water" from one side of the blanket or sheet to the other. Continue until all children have had a turn. (Optional: Cut out pictures of a variety of marine animals. Tape pictures to underside of blanket or sheet. Children use snorkel masks and swim under water to see pictures. [If possible, send two or more children under the water, depending upon the size of the group.] After they come up, children describe what they saw.)



### Materials Checklist

- ◆ *SonTreasure Island* CD and player
- ◆ markers
- ◆ large open cardboard box
- ◆ masking tape, chalk or rope

#### For each team—

- ◆ one beanbag

#### Optional—

- ◆ glue stick
- ◆ fish pictures

**KINDERGARTEN CHALLENGE:** Children bring up stuffed marine animals from under the "water." They tell names of animals and place them on top of blanket or sheet. When all marine animals have been caught, children can shake them off of the blanket.

# Snack/Craft

(25-40 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

### Food items—

- ◆ blue food coloring
- ◆ 2 16-oz. cans white frosting
- ◆ 16 unfrosted white cupcakes
- ◆ 1 box graham cracker crumbs
- ◆ several packages of gummy fish

### Optional—

- ◆ whipped cream cheese

### Utensils—

- ◆ small blue paper plates
- ◆ plastic knives
- ◆ napkins

Serves 16.

## SNACK ♦ ISLAND CUPCAKES (10-20 minutes)

**PREPARATION:** Mix several drops blue food coloring into white frosting. (Optional: Use whipped cream cheese instead of frosting.)

**PROCEDURE:** Children wash and dry hands. **An island is land that has water all around it. Today we are going to make our own island that we can eat!** Give each child a cupcake, paper plate and plastic knife. They frost top of cupcake with blue frosting, swirling it to look like ocean waves. Children sprinkle graham cracker crumb “sand” on top of cupcake to make an island and place several gummy fish in frosting around island.

**NOTE:** Post a note alerting parents to the food items used in today’s snack. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.



## CRAFT ♦ ZACCHAEUS PUPPET THEATER (15-20 minutes)

Children make puppet theater. For complete craft instructions, see “Zacchaeus Puppet Theater” in *Island Crafts for Kids*.

# Music Fun/Good-Byes

(10-15 minutes)

## Materials Checklist

Bible

- ◆ SonTreasure Island CD and player
- ◆ Jacques Parrot Puppet
- ◆ large beach towel
- ◆ 6 to 8 beach items (shell, sand pail, shovel, toy boat, starfish, suntan lotion, sunglasses, etc.)

Play CD as children gather.

**SONG:** Play “Around and ‘Round” from *SonTreasure Island CD*. Lead children in singing song while doing motions.

**GAME:** Children sit around edges of beach towel with assorted beach items in the center. Children cover their eyes. While their eyes are covered, take one of the items from the towel. Ask children to uncover their eyes and guess which item is missing. For added challenge, remove two items from towel.

**BIBLE VERSE:** Today we’ve learned that we show God’s love when we forgive others. Our Bible verse says, *[Love] is not easily angered. When someone is unkind to us, this verse means we show him or her love instead of being angry. We can forgive.*

**PRAYER:** Children repeat phrases of this prayer after you. **Thank You, God, for loving us. When we feel angry, help us remember to stop and show Your love. Help us remember to forgive others. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

**GOOD-BYE/JACQUES PARROT PUPPET:** Puppet enters. **I had fun playing at SonTreasure Island today! What did you like best?** Volunteers respond. **I’m going home now. After I told my mom I was sorry, she said that she would make some coconut pancakes for lunch, just for me! I’ll see you all tomorrow.** Puppet exits. Remove children’s name tags and distribute take-home materials.

