



WEEK 4 | January 26, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Jesus is a good friend when I am happy.

Zacchaeus • *Luke 19:1-10*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves you all the time." Proverbs 17:17, NCV

Key Question: Who is always a good friend?

Bottom Line: Jesus is always a good friend.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

SOCIAL: Time to have fun!

ACTIVITY: Rain Boot Matchup

What You Need: "Rain Boot Matchup" and "Right Rain Boots" Activity Pages; cardstock; laminating pouches; scissors; and VELCRO[®] dots

What You Do: Copy "Rain Boot Matchup" on cardstock, one for every two children. Laminate each "Rain Boot Matchup." Copy "Right Rain Boots" on cardstock and cut, one set for every two children. Laminate each set of "Right Rain Boots" and cut. Apply the smooth side of the VELCRO[®] dots to the "Rain Boot Matchup" cards in the spot where the right boot will go. Apply the rough side of the VELCRO[®] dots to the back of each right boot cutout.

What You Say: "Friends, come sit at the table with me. What do you see on the paper in front of you? *(Pause.)* Yes! It's a rain boot. But there's only one! It's missing its match! We need to find the missing boots and match them up. Once you find the boot that matches, press it onto that dot like this, and it will stick! *(Demonstrate.)* Let's take turns so every friend has a turn! You found all the matches! Friends, when do we wear rain boots? *(Pause.)* When it rains! That's right."

After the Activity: "We are learning that Jesus cares for us and is our friend—rain or shine! In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a man who met Jesus and wanted to be a friend like Jesus to others. Come with me."

Large Group: Time to Praise & Worship God!

Memory Verse: Review the Memory Verse

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God.

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

SMALL GROUP: Time to connect with the children. PRAYER: Praise God! Thank God!

CRAFT: My Friend Jesus

What You Need: "My Friend Jesus Book" Activity Page, cardstock, crayons, stickers

What You Do: Copy "My Friend Jesus Book" on cardstock, one per child. Help children fold their pages to make a book.

What You Say: "You are going to make a book about your good friend, Jesus! Color each picture. The first picture is Jesus and the man from our Bible Story today named Zacchaeus. Jesus was a good friend to him even though Zacchaeus made bad choices. And Jesus was a good friend to Zacchaeus"



when he was happy and made good choices. **Jesus is always a good friend.** The next is Jesus and His friend, Peter. Jesus was a good friend to him when Peter was brave and wanted to walk on water to Jesus. And Jesus was a good friend to Peter when he was afraid and began to sink in the water. **Jesus is always a good friend.** The next picture is Jesus and one of the men Jesus made all better. The man was so excited about Jesus making his boo-boos go away, he ran back to tell Jesus: 'Thank You!' Jesus was a good friend to the man when he was sick, and Jesus was a good friend to the man when he was excited and all better! **Jesus is always a good friend.** Now let's look at the last picture. It has Jesus and His good friends, Mary and Martha. Jesus went to see them because they were sad. Jesus was a good friend and was sad with Mary and Martha. **Jesus is always a good friend.** Everyone, hold up your book. Your books look great! You can take your book home to help you remember that **Jesus is always a good friend!** Who is always a good friend? **Jesus is always a good friend!**"

ACTIVITY: Happy and You Know It

What You Say: "We're going to sing 'If You're Happy and You Know It' together, but today we're going to do new moves with the song! Is everyone ready? (*Pause.*) Sing the song with these lines and motions-

1. "If you're happy and you know it, climb a tree. (*Climb.*)
 2. "If you're happy and you know it, walk with me. (*Walk around the room.*)
 3. "If you're happy and you know it, be a friend. (*Pretend to give a hug or a high five.*)
- "Wow, that was great friends! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

After the Activity: "Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus and then walked with Jesus to Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus was such a good friend to him that Zacchaeus wanted to be a good friend to others. I'm so happy that **Jesus is always a good friend!** Who is always a good friend? **Jesus is always a good friend!**"