Lesson at a Glance

ZACCHAEUS

CHANGED LIVES
LESSON 2

LESSON TEXT

Luke 19:1-10

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will be able to describe the reputation of tax collectors.
- Using the example of Zacchaeus, the students will list character qualities that help us to change.
- The students will choose one characteristic of their reputations that they want to change and carry out a plan for that change.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- pen or pencil
- 1 paper clip

For the teacher:
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- scissors
- extra Bibles

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student, 1 copy for Supplement teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for each student
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student, 1 copy for Supplement teacher
- Page E, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: Tax Collector Word Search

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Victories
- Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

Story: "Cyprian—Rich for Eternity"

Scripture Study

Activity: Zacchaeus and the People

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Luke 19:10

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Luke 19:10

GENERATION Preteens

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GETTING READY

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Luke 19:1-10. Consider the changes you have made in your character since becoming a disciple. Make a list of the most obvious changes. Were you eager to make them? What were the difficulties you faced? Consider the impact those changes have had on those around you.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is having the heart to continue to change your character. Consider your heart as you prepare this lesson. Are you willing and eager to continue to change your character? Do you seek advice from others on how you need to change? Your desire to do so will guide your students to have the same heart. Encourage them to seek the input of others and to eagerly pursue the changes that are suggested.

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

TAX COLLECTOR WORD SEARCH

After reading a short paragraph explaining why the Jews hated tax collectors, the students will do a word search comprised of ten words found in the paragraph.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- pen or pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student, 1 copy for the Supplement teacher

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Distribute a copy of Reproducible Page A (Tax Collector Word Search) to each of the students as they arrive.
2. Tell the students to read the paragraph before doing the word search. After they have read the paragraph, have them raise their hands for you to give them a pen or pencil to do the word search.

NOTE: Be sure to give a copy of the page to the Supplement teacher.

A	N	D	J	X	R	Q	J	D	L	P	W	Z	Y
O	D	V	T	N	U	G	E	O	R	X	E	J	B
R	T	B	C	A	B	K	R	V	B	D	U	R	W
Q	U	C	S	T	O	B	U	J	E	W	I	S	H
V	Q	O	T	O	D	E	S	T	V	I	W	Y	X
R	N	B	R	S	C	D	A	W	A	S	R	E	P
H	U	C	P	F	I	H	L	I	K	X	G	J	Y
X	P	Z	H	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T
T	R	A	I	T	O	R	M	O	C	H	N	Z	H
J	O	G	L	M	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R
N	A	G	Q	E	N	U	E	D	G	A	I	O	J
G	M	P	T	O	S	M	C	M	M	L	L	L	S
P	E	F	G	F	D	T	K	I	X	F	E	B	K
L	Q	E	K	N	J	E	I	F	R	Y	U	R	L
V	U	Y	J	X	L	I	G	N	D	E	Q	C	B
O	N	P	O	R	K	H	W	Z	E	M	Z	A	T

GENERATION NEXT
Preteens

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GETTING READY

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER

Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together? Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities and illnesses, etc. Also encourage them to pray that God will keep them willing to change and grow in any way that they need to in order to please him.

VICTORIES

Take time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. (Loving those different from you at home/school/church). *Did everyone complete the challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Would anyone like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

INSTRUCTIONS

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the kingdom of God is worldwide, and the victories of our brothers and sisters on other continents can inspire and spur us on.

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Getting into God's Word

Story

"Cyprian—Rich for Eternity"

The story of Cyprian will help your students to understand that when we change our hearts to focus on what is truly important, our riches will be set in eternity.

Materials Used

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Instructions

1. Distribute copies of Reproducible Page B (Cyprian's Story) to the students.
2. Read the story to the students.
3. Explain and discuss the sacrifice brought about by Cyprian's change of heart. *Why do you think that sacrifice brought him joy?* (because he changed from being greedy and selfish to living for others)
4. There are many examples today in the kingdom where disciples have given up prestigious careers to serve in the ministry, or given up jobs that hindered their commitment to the body. Others have moved and changed jobs to advance the gospel. *Do you know any people who have inspired you in this way? If so, please tell us about them.*
5. *How would you feel if your family chose to sacrifice in such a way? How do you think such sacrifice would change your life?*
6. *Do you think you would feel the same joy that Cyprian felt and the joy that today's disciples feel when they sacrifice for the kingdom?*
7. *Do you think that Cyprian was still joyful at the end of his life?*
8. *What did he have to look forward to?* (eternal riches!)

Scripture Study

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- extra Bibles

Have the students take out their copies of Reproducible Page A. Read the section entitled "Reputation of Jewish Tax Collectors" aloud to the class. Help the students understand how the people felt about tax collectors.

Have the students take out their Bibles and turn to Luke 19:1-10. Select a volunteer to read the passage.

Discuss verses 1-2. Emphasize that Zacchaeus was a "chief" tax collector and wealthy. How do you think people felt about Zacchaeus and why?

Discuss verses 3-6. *What were some characteristics of Zacchaeus that helped him change?* (willing to fight his way through a crowd / wanted to see Jesus / took the extra effort and humility to climb a tree / obeyed Jesus immediately)

Discuss verses 8-10. *How did Zacchaeus change?* (generous instead of greedy / became sacrificial / changed the way he did business) *What was Jesus' response to Zacchaeus' changes?* (salvation!)

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

ACTIVITY

ZACCHAEUS AND THE PEOPLE

During this section the students will practice a play about Zacchaeus that will be performed during the next class period.

MATERIALS USED

For each student:
- 1 paper clip

For the teacher:
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student, 1 copy for Supplement teacher

PREPARATION

From the copies of Reproducible Page C, cut out and clip together $110 to hand out to each student, with an extra $330 to go to the student who plays Zacchaeus, the tax collector. (Since Jesus and the Roman official will not need money, you will have the extra needed to go to Zacchaeus.)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page D (the play).
2. Assign students roles according to the script of the play.
3. Hand out play money: $110 to each taxpayer and $330 to Zacchaeus. There is no money for Jesus or the Roman official.
4. Walk through the play slowly and determine when each person will enter and where they will sit or stand.
5. Have each of the characters rehearse their lines so that they know what they are supposed to say and do. Some characters may want to memorize their lines. Longer lines need not be memorized unless the student would like to.
6. Every student who is not assigned a speaking role is to be a taxpayer who simply hands the money to Zacchaeus at the proper time.
7. Practice the play until the students feel comfortable with it.

NOTE: Students may wish to bring a simple costume for the performance (such as a robe). You must communicate all arrangements with the Supplement Lesson preteen teachers. Collect all play money after this rehearsal. Then deliver to the teacher of the Supplement Lesson (1) play money (2) a list of assigned roles (3) a copy of Reproducible Page A (Tax Collector Word Search with paragraph about tax collectors) (4) a copy of Reproducible Page D (the play). (Ask the students with speaking parts to bring their copy of the play for the next class if they think they will need it.)

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Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
Luke 19:10

Materials Used

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each student

Instructions

1. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page E (Memory Verse).
2. Have the students say the memory verse together aloud several times.
3. Discuss with the students Jesus' purpose to save everyone.

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

Ask each student to share one characteristic of their reputation that needs to be different. Why does he or she feel that this characteristic needs to change? After sharing, have the students discuss the impact that these changes would have on friends at school and family members at home.

The challenge for this week is for each student to develop and carry out a plan to begin to change this characteristic. Remind the students that the elements necessary for change are eagerness, humility, seeking God's will, obedience and prayer.

Each student should explain their goal to their family, asking for their prayers and for their help, advice and correction when needed. At the end of the week, the student's parents should write a short note, explaining the impact of their preteen's change on the family. The students will share these notes during next week's class.

Conclusion

End today's meeting with a prayer.

Remind students to bring their copy of the play to the next class if they think they will need it. Also remind them to bring simple costumes if you and they have decided to do so.

Weekly Challenge

Select one character trait that you need to change. Then develop and carry out a plan for change. Ask your parents to pray for you and to give you advice, encouragement and correction when needed. At the end of the week, have your parents write a note about the impact of your change on the family.
Bring this note to class next week.

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Lesson at a Glance supplement

ZACCHAEUS

CHANGED LIVES
LESSON 2
(SUPPLEMENT)

LESSON TEXT

Luke 19:1-10; Matthew 18:15-17

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain that Zacchaeus' heart changed when Jesus reached out to him.
- The students will relate the different ways that God reaches out to people.
- The students will choose one characteristic of their reputations that they want to change and carry out a plan for that change.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- 1 paper clip

For the teacher:
- 2 large poster boards
- glue sticks
- markers
- photograph of each student (taken during previous Supplement Class time)
- scissors
- a variety of magazines

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher (from Core teacher)
- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher (from Core teacher)

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: God Reaching Out to Me

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer and Review
- Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Activity #1: Zacchaeus and the People

Scripture Study

Activity #2: God Wants You! (Optional)

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Luke 19:10

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Luke 19:10

GENERATION NEXT
Preteens

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Read and meditate on Matthew 18:15-17 and on Luke 19:1-10, focusing on how Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus. Consider how God has reached out to you and the people he used to show you his love.

TEACHER TIPS

The focus of this lesson is on God's love as he reaches out to us and brings change to our lives. Remind your students that God uses each of us as instruments to achieve this. Encourage each one of them to be sharing their faith actively so that God through them can reach out to their friends and neighbors. You will need to make arrangements with the Core Lesson teacher to receive the following: (1) play money (2) a list of assigned roles (3) a copy of Reproducible Page A (Tax Collector Word Search with paragraph about tax collectors) (4) a copy of Reproducible Page D (the play). (Students with speaking roles were asked to bring their copy of the play for the next class if they thought they needed it.)

Today's activity calls for you to obtain a variety of magazines. These should include family magazines, news magazines with pictures of prominent world leaders, and entertainment magazines that have photographs of sports, film and TV stars. (Do check through these and remove any pictures that would be inappropriate for the students to see.)

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

GOD REACHING OUT TO ME

As this collage is created with your students' photos, they will begin to understand how much time and effort God has put into reaching out to each one of them.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 large poster board
- glue stick
- markers
- photograph of each student (taken during previous Supplement Class time)

Option: (If you do not have photographs of the students, have each draw a "self portrait" on the poster board.)

PREPARATION

Draw a picture of a pair of outstretched hands on the poster board. (See Figure A on page 8-2-9.)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. As the first students arrive, discuss with them how God has reached out to them and brought them into the fellowship. (Who met their parents or, if they are visiting, what friend brought them to class that day?)
2. As soon as you have a small group, get started by having each student share with the others their story of how God reached out to them! As the student share their stories, glue their pictures onto the poster board, placing each photo "in God's hands."

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GETTING READY

(SUPPLEMENT)

STARTING UP

WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes for each student to be an instrument that God can use to reach others.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Luke 19:10.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson).

GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief, so that as many as possible can share.

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Getting into God's Word

(Supplement)

Activity 1

Zacchaeus and the People

Materials Needed

For each student:
- 1 paper clip

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher
  NOTE: both to be supplied by the Core teacher

Preparation

1. Obtain from the Core teacher the following: (1) play money (2) a list of assigned roles (3) a copy of Reproducible Page A (Tax Collector Word Search with paragraph about tax collectors) (4) a copy of Reproducible Page D (the play). (Students with speaking roles were asked to bring their copy of the play for the next class if they thought they needed it.)
2. Clip together $110 for each student and $330 for the student playing Zacchaeus. (Since Jesus and the Roman official will not need any money, you will have the extra needed to go to Zacchaeus.)
3. Distribute the money to each of the students except the two who play Jesus and the Roman official.

Instructions

1. Have the students act out the play as practiced during the Core class.
2. Encourage them to be dramatic and to play each part from the heart.

Scripture Study

Ask the students to take out their Bibles and turn to Matthew 18:15-17. Select a volunteer to read the passage. Focus the students on how "tax collector" is used in this passage.

- *What was the reputation of a tax collector? Why?* (Although the Core teacher has already read it, reread the section on "Reputation of a Jewish Tax Collector" from Reproducible Page A.)
- *Why would Jesus want to reach out to a tax collector?*

Have the students turn to Luke 19:1-10, and select a student to read the passage aloud. Focus on verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and to save what was lost." This included tax collectors.

- *What were some things Jesus had to overcome to reach out to Zacchaeus?* (v. 7—public opinion / v. 1—change of plans)
- *Who are some people today who might be more difficult for us to reach out to?* (very wealthy / very poor / someone different from me / somebody I don't like / a star student or athlete / someone very popular)
- *What do you think happened in Jericho after Jesus left Zacchaeus' house?* (people talked about Zacchaeus' change / poor people rejoiced / God's name was praised / Zacchaeus probably became the favorite tax collector among the people / the other tax collectors probably got mad at him)
- *What types of changes do you think you could help someone make just by showing them how God is reaching out to them?*

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GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

(SUPPLEMENT)

ACTIVITY 2 (OPTIONAL)

GOD WANTS YOU!

The students will make a poster that will give them a great vision of the different types of people whom they can help reach for God.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 1 large poster board
- glue sticks
- scissors
- a variety of magazines

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Write across the top of the poster "God Wants You!"
2. Have student cut out pictures of people—both famous and unknown.
3. Glue the pictures on the poster board to make a collage.
4. Discuss who in the kingdom would be able to reach out to these people. (Whether it is someone who might work for the President or a disciple who lives in India.) Remind the students that anyone can reach out to any individual. Any one of us can share with a student or a principal, a taxi driver or a sports star. Each of your students and you should pray consistently about the people that God will put in your lives on a daily basis.
5. Discuss how God wants each of these people to hear about his love for them. Remind them that it is his plan for us to share the good news with the people around us. We should not be intimidated by a person's "star status," influence, race, handicap, etc.

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Getting It to Others

(Supplement)

Scripture Memory

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
Luke 19:10

Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson. Practice the verse together with the class, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week. (During the last class, the teacher asked each student to share one characteristic of their reputations that needed to be different and to tell why they felt that this characteristic needed to change. After their sharing, the students discussed the impact that these changes would have on friends at school and family members at home.)

The challenge for this week is for each student to develop and carry out a plan to begin to change this characteristic. Remind the students that the elements necessary for change are eagerness, humility, seeking God's will, obedience and prayer.

Each student should explain their goal to their family and ask for prayers and for help, advice and correction when needed. At the end of the week, the student's parents should write a short note, explaining the impact of their preteen's change on the family. The students will share these notes during next week's class.

Conclusion

End the class with a prayer.

Weekly Challenge

Select one character trait that you need to change. Then develop and carry out a plan for change. Ask your parents to pray for you and to give you advice, encouragement and correction when needed. At the end of the week, have your parents write a note about the impact of your change on the family.
Bring this note to class next week.

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE A

TAX COLLECTOR WORD SEARCH

(Read the following paragraph before doing the word search.)

REPUTATION OF THE JEWISH TAX COLLECTOR

The tax collectors were a hated group of Jewish people who collected taxes from the people for the government. They were known for collecting more than they needed to and for keeping the rest. Herod the Great had used local taxes to finance not only the Jerusalem temple and his palace, but also pagan temples in Gentile areas in Palestine. This, of course, made the Jews even more upset about having to give the government (and the crooked tax collectors) so much money. Tax collectors thus seemed to be supporting Rome, the pagan power that ruled over the Jewish people, and therefore, the Jewish people saw them as traitors.

Find the following 10 words in the word search puzzle:

TAX

JERUSALEM

COLLECTOR

HATED

JEWISH

CROOKED

GOVERNMENT

TRAITOR

GENTILE

PALESTINE

A	N	D	J	X	R	Q	J	D	L	P	W	Z	Y
O	D	V	T	N	U	G	E	O	R	X	E	J	B
R	T	B	C	A	B	K	R	V	B	D	U	R	W
Q	U	C	S	T	O	B	U	J	E	W	I	S	H
V	Q	O	T	O	D	E	S	T	V	I	W	Y	X
R	N	B	R	S	C	D	A	W	A	S	R	E	P
H	U	C	P	F	I	H	L	I	K	X	G	J	Y
X	P	Z	H	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T
T	R	A	I	T	O	R	M	O	C	H	N	Z	H
J	O	G	L	M	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	O	R
N	A	G	Q	E	N	U	E	D	G	A	I	O	J
G	M	P	T	O	S	M	C	M	M	L	L	L	S
P	E	F	G	F	D	T	K	I	X	F	E	B	K
L	Q	E	K	N	J	E	I	F	R	Y	U	R	L
V	U	Y	J	X	L	I	G	N	D	E	Q	C	B
O	N	P	O	R	K	H	W	Z	E	M	Z	A	T

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GENERATION Next Preteens

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE B

CYPRIAN—RICH FOR ETERNITY

A wealthy man named Cyprian became a disciple in the early Third Century at the age of forty. His life was radically changed. Because of his gratitude to God for his new life, he sold everything he had and gave it all to the poor. He was overjoyed because of his new freedom from his material possessions. After a couple of years, he was appointed an elder in the church. He devoted the rest of his life to his brothers and sisters in Christ with a tireless devotion and had a great impact on the people he served.

SACRIFICE BRINGS JOY

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE C

PLAY MONEY

Core/Getting into God's Word/1 copy for each student

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE D

ZACCHAEUS AND THE PEOPLE

CHARACTERS:

Jesus Roman Official Other Taxpayers Zacchaeus Three Speaking Taxpayers
(Zacchaeus is set up at a table as the people of Jericho line up to pay him their taxes.)

SCENE ONE:

ZACCHAEUS: Pay me the money you owe the government!
TAXPAYER #1: How much?
ZACCHAEUS: $30. (pays his taxes) Next! Pay your taxes!
TAXPAYER #2: How much?
ZACCHAEUS: $50.
TAXPAYER #2: That's robbery!!
ZACCHAEUS: Do you have a problem with that? I could raise it!
TAXPAYER #2: No, that's fine. I will pay it. (pays)
ZACCHAEUS: Next. Pay me the money you owe the government!
TAXPAYER #3: How much?
ZACCHAEUS: $60.
(All the other taxpayers come to Zacchaeus and pay their taxes.)
(Zacchaeus gets up and goes to a table where the Roman official sits.)
ROMAN OFFICIAL: Where is your district?
ZACCHAEUS: Jericho.
ROMAN OFFICIAL: Give me the money you have collected for Rome.
(Zacchaeus gives him half of the money and keeps the other half for himself.)

SCENE TWO:

(Jesus enters the town.)
ALL THE TAXPAYERS: Jesus is coming. Jesus is coming!
ZACCHAEUS: Who is this Jesus? I want to see him. (Zacchaeus steps up on a chair to simulate a tree.)
NOTE: Please help the student to do this carefully to avoid accidents!
(taxpayers ignore Zacchaeus, but Jesus comes directly to him)
JESUS: I must stay at your house today.
ZACCHAEUS: Sure!

SCENE THREE:

(Jesus walks with Zacchaeus to his house.)
JESUS You can't serve both God and money. Has money brought you happiness?
ZACCHAEUS: No, not a bit! I have lots of money, but I have just a few friends. I'm not sure if those who are my friends like me or my money.
JESUS: Let me tell you about my Father...
(Zacchaeus comes from his home and immediately starts returning money to the taxpayers and apologizes to them for cheating them. Taxpayers are joyful.)
THE END

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REPRODUCIBLE PAGE E

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

LUKE 19:10

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Select one character trait that you need to change. Then develop and carry out a plan for change. Ask your parents to pray for you and to give you advice, encouragement and correction when needed. At the end of the week, have your parents write a note about the impact of your change on the family. Bring this note to class next week.

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