

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Repentance means turning from sin and doing what is right.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a follower of God repents of sin and follows God's ways.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus

MEMORY VERSE:

"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before." Colossians 2:7 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Zacchaeus lived a sad and lonely life because he was a tax collector who stole a lot of money from people. Because of this not many people liked Zacchaeus. Then one day, Zacchaeus met Jesus. Jesus gave Zacchaeus the chance to put his faith in Him. When Zacchaeus put his faith in Jesus, his life was turned around! Not only did he have a friend in Jesus, but Zacchaeus learned how to be a friend to others as well. Use green bricks to construct the sycamore tree that gave Zacchaeus the chance to see Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for our sins, and help us to go and sin no more.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before.” Colossians 2:7 (NirV)

“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:7 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP:

Choose four kids who think they know the verse. Line them up on stage. Have the kids recite the memory verse, with each kid saying one word, starting left to right. When you get to the kid on the right, go back to the kid on the far left. Keep going until they get through the whole verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Have each kid read the memory verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SKIT

DO OVER

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2 M

CHARACTERS:

Drew - A construction worker

Clyde - Drew's supervisor

Drew and Clyde enter together.

DREW: Morning, boss.

CLYDE: Good morning! Ready to get to work today?

DREW: Master builder reporting for duty, sir!

CLYDE: That's the spirit! Okay, today we are building a tree.

DREW: A tree, huh?

CLYDE: The plans call for us to build a tree right here.

DREW: You got it, boss. What color?

CLYDE: What color do you think? Green!

DREW: A green tree? Okay. Where are the green blocks?

CLYDE: That's funny. There was a stack of them right here.

DREW: *(eyes widen – he looks guilty)* Right here, sir?

CLYDE: Yeah, they were here last night.

DREW: Uh oh.

SKIT

CLYDE: I wonder what could have happened to them.

DREW: I dunno. Maybe someone used them on another part of the project?

CLYDE: There's no other green in the plans.

DREW: You sure about that?

CLYDE: *(looks off)* Now look at that. Looks like someone used them to make their own building creation.

DREW: Oh boy.

CLYDE: Looks like they made a person.

DREW: Oh man.

CLYDE: A green person. You know, it kind of looks like... you.

DREW: Okay, I confess! I did it. I got done early last night, I saw the green bricks, and I didn't think anyone needed them so...

CLYDE: So you made a green statue of yourself?

DREW: It's a self-portrait.

CLYDE: It really looks like you. What do you call it?

DREW: How about... "I'm sorry, I messed up, please give me another chance?"

CLYDE: Ah, yes, I can see that. It's a portrait of repentance.

DREW: It is?

CLYDE: Well, it will be when you dismantle it and turn it into a tree.

DREW: You're really going to give me a second chance?

CLYDE: You confessed your bad choice. You want to set it right. And I think you've learned from it. That sounds like repentance to me. How can I not give you a second chance?

DREW: Oh, thank you, sir! Thank you very much.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A LEGO set that's been built and then mixed up

Has this ever happened to you? You worked all day, or all week, on a LEGO design. You followed the instructions, or maybe you just followed your own imagination. You made sure every piece, every color, every connection was just right. You put your creation down for five minutes, and what happens?

Someone comes along and wrecks it!

When someone wrecks your LEGO creation, you want them to make it right. You want them to say they are sorry, you want them to fix it, and you want them to promise not to do it again.

That's what repentance means. It means telling God we are sorry for our sins. It means apologizing to other people we have hurt and offering to make it right. And it means promising God, and ourselves, that we will not make those same bad choices again.

Repentance takes humility. It means admitting our faults, which is never easy, but it is a necessary part of growing in Christ. When you mess up, confess your sins to God, then do what it takes to set things right. You will grow closer to God, and you will become a strong witness for your faith!

LARGE GROUP GAME

LEGO DEMOLITION

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two identical LEGO assemblies

INSTRUCTIONS:

Prior to game time, have someone assemble two LEGO assemblies that are identical or at least have the same number of pieces.

Choose two players for this game. Give each player one of the LEGO assemblies. The players will race to see who can completely disassemble their LEGO creation first. The first player whose creation lies in total pieces (no 2 pieces connected) wins.

VARIATION:

An alternate game would have the players disassembling DUPLOS instead of regular LEGOs. Easier for younger kids, and funnier with the big kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Repentance means we are sorry for what we have done and we are willing to make things right when necessary.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Repentance means turning from sin and doing what is right.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that a follower of God repents of sin and follows God's ways.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus

INTRO:

I'm sure it doesn't happen often, but I know it happens. It happens because we are all human, and we all make mistakes. Someone buys a LEGO set – let's say it's a Marvel Avengers set. They take it home, they open the box, expecting to find a LEGO Iron Man and Captain America, and instead they pull out... Kylo Ren???

Someone goofed. Or some machine in a factory goofed. The wrong parts ended up in the wrong box at the factory. The mistake was never caught, and now you're sitting at the kitchen counter, ready to play Avengers, but instead face to face with Darth Vader's grandson. Pretty disappointing for a Marvel fan, huh?

Thankfully, LEGO knows that mistakes happen. So do the stores that sell LEGOs. Stores and the LEGO Company both have return policies so that you can bring back a defective LEGO set and exchange it for a different one. It's standard practice for all stores and all toy companies that want you to give them more business. In fact some companies will go one step further and send you something extra as a way of saying, "Sorry."

We all make mistakes. It's in our nature. Whenever we make a bad decision that violates God's Word, it's called sin. The Bible tells us that sin separated us from God and that nothing we can do can make it right. That may sound discouraging, but the good news is, God sent His Son Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Because of Jesus we can have our sins forgiven. But in order to receive that forgiveness, we must repent.

What does it mean to repent? I think today's Bible story teaches that definition very well. It's about a man named Zacchaeus, a dishonest man with a bad reputation who very much wanted to meet Jesus, even though he knew he was a sinner. Let's see what happens when Jesus and Zacchaeus cross paths.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ LUKE 19:1-10

MAIN POINT:

Zacchaeus was not a tall man. He was a guy who could easily be lost in a crowd. He climbed a tree, wanting to see Jesus, and Jesus in turn, spotted him. Jesus knew Zacchaeus' heart. He knew he was a sinner, but he also knew Zacchaeus wanted to change. That's why He told Zacchaeus, "I am coming to your house today."

It must have shocked the people in the crowd to hear this. "Why would Jesus go to visit Zacchaeus? Doesn't He know that Zacchaeus is a liar and a thief?" Of course Jesus knew! But Jesus wanted Zacchaeus to know that if he was willing to repent, he could be forgiven. Zacchaeus confessed his sin. He apologized to Jesus. He agreed to apologize to the people he had cheated and to pay them back all he had stolen, plus extra. He also vowed never to do it again.

That's what repentance means. It means confessing our sin, turning from sin, and making things right with others. It's one of the hardest things to do, but it's vital if we want to grow as Christians.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Repentance takes three things. First, we must recognize that we are sinners and confess our sins. There's no use hiding them from God because He knows everything we've ever done, even in secret. Confess that you messed up, and tell Him you are sorry.

Second, if you've hurt someone with your sin, you must make things right. That means not only saying you're sorry, but fixing anything you have broken. If you've broken a friendship, you must work to mend it. If you broke someone's trust, you must earn it back. If you broke a toy, you must replace it or repair it. Just like Zacchaeus, who paid back the people he robbed, we can be a witness for Christ if we set things right with others.

Finally, we must turn from that sin. This is the hardest part, because we are all sinners by nature, but we must do everything we can to turn from sin. If doing something causes you to have a bad attitude, stop doing that. If hanging around certain friends causes you to make bad choices, you may have to hang out with different friends. Whatever it is that leads to sin, turn from it. Focus on Jesus. Focus on things that are good and pure. Turn away from sin.

It's appropriate that our building color of the week is green. Green means growth, and few things help us grow in Christ like repentance. Repentance feels like a set back. We have to go back, say we are sorry, and mend things, but the act of repentance grows our faith and our witness for Jesus. People will see we are different.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

They will see that our faith is real. And that can lead them to repentance as well.

It isn't easy to confess our faults, but the more we do, the more we will grow in Christ. If you need to confess some sin, confess it. If you need to set things right with a friend, do it. Be a witness for the one who died for our sins by being the first to confess – and turn from – your own sin!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Forgive us for our sins, and help us to go and sin no more.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever climbed a tree?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:7

Have each kid read the memory verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a big bucket of LEGOs for every group. Have each group work together to build a tree as tall as they can.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 19:1-10

Who was Zacchaeus?

Why didn't Zacchaeus have many friends?

What did Jesus say when He saw Zacchaeus?

What does it mean to repent?

How did Zacchaeus repent of his sins?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to repent of our sins so we can become better followers of Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever climbed a tree?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:7

Have each kid read the memory verse in the voice of their favorite cartoon character.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Bring in a big bucket of LEGOs for every group. Have each group work together to build a tree as tall as they can.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 19:1-10

Why didn't Zacchaeus have many friends?

Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly?

Why do you think Zacchaeus repented of his sins?

What does it mean to repent?

Is there something you need to repent or make right this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to repent of our sins so we can become better followers of Jesus.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Zacchaeus was a tax collector.

TRUE

Tax collectors were known for their honesty.

FALSE

Zacchaeus had to climb a tree to see Jesus.

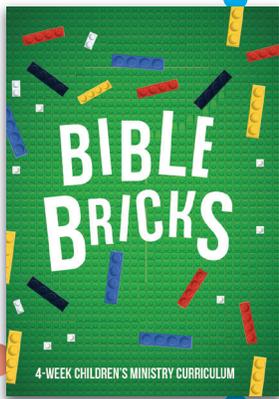
TRUE

Jesus refused to visit Zacchaeus.

FALSE

Zacchaeus paid back the people he had cheated with more money than he had stolen.

TRUE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Bricks Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: BUILD REPENTANCE



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Zacchaeus lived a sad and lonely life because he was a tax collector who stole a lot of money from people. Because of this not many people liked Zacchaeus. Then one day, Zacchaeus met Jesus. Jesus gave Zacchaeus the chance to put his faith in Him. When Zacchaeus put his faith in Jesus, his life was turned around! Not only did he have a friend in Jesus, but Zacchaeus learned how to be a friend to others as well. Use green bricks to construct the sycamore tree that gave Zacchaeus the chance to see Jesus.

Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Talk to your kids this week about how to handle situations in your family where someone has wronged someone else. What kind of things can you do not only to show you are sorry, but set things right? Use real life examples if you can, and challenge your kids to think how they will handle these situations when they arise.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly?
- How did Zacchaeus show he was sorry for his sins?
- Why is it important to say we are sorry and make things right when we sin?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

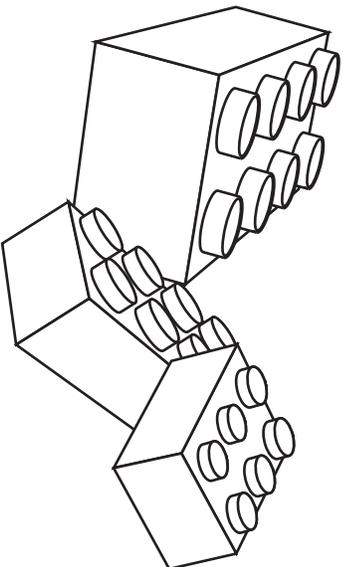
"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before." Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

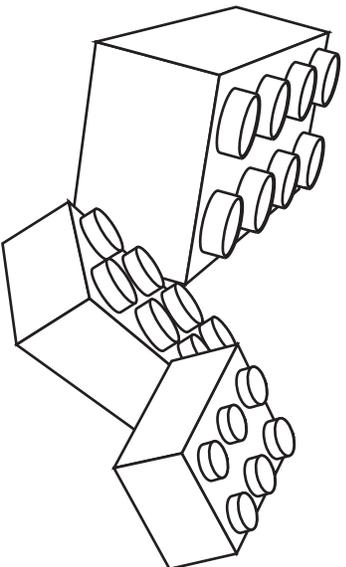
What you need to know:

Repentance is more than saying, "I'm sorry." It means we take the time to mend relationships and make things right. If there's someone you have wronged, ask God to help you to mend that situation and make it up to the person you've hurt.



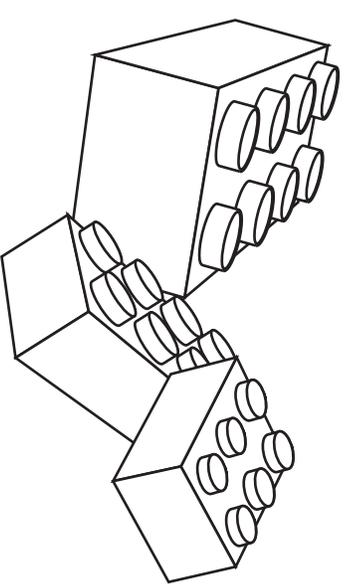
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- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



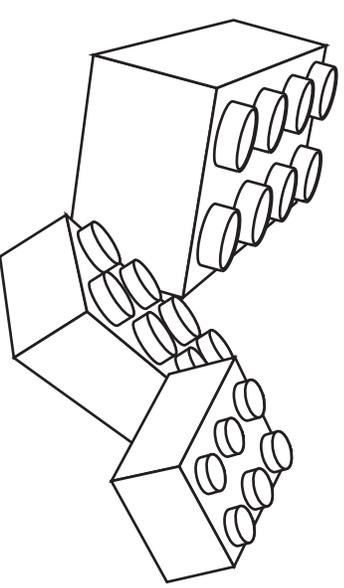
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- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)



"Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before."

- Colossians 2:7 (NIRV)

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each kid a blank sheet of paper, a brown piece of construction paper, and a green piece of construction paper. As with last week, the kids will cut out squares from the green paper and use those squares to make a tree on the blank page, gluing them on one at a time. They can use brown for the trunk if desired.