

CITY LG – March 11-13, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Life Changes (Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

Today's Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)*

WORSHIP

Standing in Your Light

All of Me

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

SLIDE: Theme

“Hello, my friends! We're so glad you're here in the CITY today because we've got a lot of fun planned for today. All month long, we're talking about forgiveness!

SLIDE: Virtue

“Forgiveness means deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

SLIDE: Theme

“I bet we can all think of a time when we've done something wrong and needed someone to forgive us. Maybe you can think of a time when you forgave someone else after they had hurt your feelings. It happens. We have disagreements with our friends and family from time to time. We need God's help so we can choose to forgive instead of wanting to get even.

Let's take a few minutes in your small group to talk about this question: **When has someone forgiven you for something?**

(Walk around as groups discuss. Give them 2-3 minutes or until you see they are mostly finished)

Play spotify playlist at a low level as groups discuss

“Does anyone want to share a time when you were forgiven for something?”

(Let a few kids answer the question)

“Today we're going to look at another amazing story from the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We've been making our way through God's Big Story over the past several months—all the way from the very beginning!

“At this point in the story, Jesus had arrived. God had sent Jesus to be the promised Savior, and everyone was AMAZED by the things Jesus did and said. Everywhere Jesus went, crowds of people came to see Him. Religious leaders came to hear what Jesus had to say, along with everyday people, Roman soldiers, and even tax collectors like a man named Zacchaeus.

Let's see what we learn about Zacchaeus in the Story Lab!”

Bible Story Video

“When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his life was changed forever! He decided to change his ways and pay back what he had stolen from the people. He was now a loved follower of Jesus.

“This story reminds us how powerful forgiveness can be!

Let’s watch Greg show us our bottom line.”

Bottom Line Video

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“Let’s say it together.”

[Bottom Line] “When you forgive others, it can change them.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us forgive.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and forgiving us. Your forgiveness CHANGES us and makes us want to live Your way, every day. We can see how Jesus’ forgiveness changed everything for Zacchaeus. Please help us love and forgive others in a way that can change their lives for the better, because we know that’s what forgiveness can do. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“We know for sure that God will ALWAYS forgive us when we ask. That sets us free and allows us to love God and love others. When you forgive others, it can change THEM, too. It doesn’t mean that they WILL change, but forgiveness makes a way for them to try to live differently.

“I know how important forgiveness has been in my life, and that makes me want to forgive others, too. **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated**, by being willing to forgive.

“Our memory verse is something Paul wrote in a letter, Colossians 3:13. Paul said . . .

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.” (NirV)

“I really believe that forgiveness can change our lives. This is such a big idea that I know you’ll have a lot to talk about in Small Group. Bur before we do that. It’s offering Time!

OFFERING:

We are giving our offering to our friends in Mexico through an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries.

Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or education.

Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education. Here is a picture of one of their amazing teachers.

SLIDE: Teacher in Classroom

Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus. Isn’t that great? So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!

“Great job! I sure have enjoyed hanging out with all of you today. Have fun in Small Group!”