



Lesson 4: A New Life 3-5 In-Person Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	I can live a new life in Jesus.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” (Romans 6:4, NLT).
<u>Bible Passage</u>	“A New Life for Zacchaeus” (Luke 19:1-10, NLT).
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Bible ● Two dowel rods (3/8” diameter and 3’ long) per student, and two rods for the leader

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome crew members with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Ask children to take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the “How Are You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- Open a discussion with the question: “What job would you least like to have when you grow up?”

Play a game.

Opposites Challenge

Choose one student to sit in a "challenge chair." Other members of the group should take turns naming a word with an opposite (hot-cold, dark-light, old-new, etc.) The student in the chair must quickly respond with the opposite of the word named. Let students take turns being in the “challenge chair.”

Do you ever act in a way that is opposite of what you should do? Why?

Take student responses.

When Jesus comes into our lives, his love changes our minds, hearts and our lives! We begin to live differently! That's what we are going to learn about today.

Snowball Fight

Materials: 40-50 rolled up paper balls ("snowballs")

Divide students into two teams onto two sides of the room. Place all paper "snowballs" in the center and have each team line up either on the wall or a baseline that you create. Tell students that when you give a signal, both teams can run to grab the "snowballs" and throw them on the opposing team's side. Players continue to throw the "snowballs" on the other side until the leader yells, "STOP." Everyone should freeze and count up how many snowballs are remaining on their team's side. The team that has the least amount on their side wins the round.



Receive (20 minutes)

Receive God's Word.

This is an interactive story based off of Luke 19:1-10 that can be acted out using dowel rods.¹ Use rods or sticks that are 3/8" diameter and 3' long. Give each student two rods.

Once each student has received two dowel rods, say,

The purpose of the rods is to help me tell the story.

- Stress the importance of safety and allow appropriate space between students and others.
- Teach a specific instruction for "freezing" and allow students to practice it.
- Clarify that any student not handling the responsibility well will lose the opportunity to participate.

Lead the students through the story by making motions with the dowel rods to dramatically illustrate the story and the rest of the participants in the group will follow along with their own dowel rods.

Explain the concept to the students and perhaps 'prepare them' by doing the first three sentences in the story that require their involvement. The script below includes suggested motions you can make with the dowel rods, but feel free to be creative and add your own twist to it!

¹ If dowel rods are not an option, a great alternative would be pencils (unsharpened, of course!)

Jesus was walking along the road with his friends.	(Use the sticks to tap the ground like two legs walking.)
They came to a town named Jericho. It had many tall buildings.	(Point the sticks tall like a skyscraper.)
Children played games in the streets.	(Use the sticks to simulate games and describe the games you are imitating. E.g. baseball, golf, pickup sticks!)
Others made music along the roadside.	(Use the sticks to simulate musical instruments and describe these instruments to the audience. E.g. guitar, drums, violin, cello, etc.)
There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was very wealthy and had many possessions. He had many servants who did the work in his house. They swept it and kept it clean.	(Sweeping motion)
They cooked the food.	(Stir a pot of food)
They did the gardening and the landscaping.	(Shoveling and raking)
Zacchaeus was a tax collector. That means he was a Jewish man who collected money from his fellow Jews and gave money to the Romans to pay their taxes. And the Jews didn't like the Romans because they were evil.	(Make an X with the sticks)
They had swords.	(Perform a motion like you are drawing a sword.)
They rode horses.	(Tap the sticks on the ground to make galloping sounds)
And they even killed Jews who did not obey them.	(Form a cross)
Jews didn't like the tax collectors too.	(Make an X with the sticks)
Tax collectors would increase what	(Make an arrow pointing upwards with

the Jews had to pay so they could put money in their own pockets. That's how Zacchaeus became so rich!	the sticks)
Zacchaeus had heard Jesus speak before. He heard that Jesus healed a man born blind named Bartimaeus. So, he wanted to see the man for himself. The problem was that there were many people lined up along the streets...	(Place the sticks one in front of another rapidly to simulate people lined up)
...and Zacchaeus was short.	(Hold the stick horizontally at a low level)
Very short.	(Lower the stick)
Shorter...	(Lower the stick even further and squat if you are able.)
And he couldn't see above the heads of the people lined up along the street.	(Pretend to peek your head up above the stick)
He tried jumping up and down.	(Jump up and down.)
But that was exhausting.	
So, he decided to climb up one of the sycamore trees that lined the streets.	(Hold both of the sticks horizontally like ladder rungs and move them one above the other to simulate climbing)
He got high enough that he could peek through the branches and see Jesus coming towards him.	(Hold the two sticks outward in a V shape like branches and peek your head out between them.)
He thought he was hidden by the branches until Jesus looked up at him and said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from that tree...I'm staying at your house today."	(Hold the sticks way up high)
Zacchaeus practically fell out of the tree and landed on the ground.	(Drop the sticks and then pick them back up.)
He ran as fast as he could to get home.	(Tap the sticks rapidly against the floor like two legs running)

He wanted to make sure his house was ready.	(Sweep the sticks like a broom.)
He told his servants to prepare a meal fit for a king.	(Pretend to set the table with the sticks as silverware.)
When Jesus arrived at his home, he opened the door and welcomed him in.	(Hold sticks together vertically in front of you and make a motion with your arm like you are opening a door.)
The religious leaders were furious. They wagged their long fingers and shook their heads. “Doesn’t Jesus know who this man is?”	(Use the stick to make a wagging finger)
But Zacchaeus, touched by Jesus’s kindness and broken by his sin, said to him:	(Drop sticks dramatically)
“I’ll give half of all my possessions to the poor!”	(Pick up the sticks again and pretend to divide the room in half with the sticks)
“I will go to every person I cheated and pay back what I owe.”	(Pretend to hand out money with the sticks)
“Then, I will give them four times as much money that I took from them!”	(Drag the sticks in two big sweeping motions)
Even though he was short...	(Hold the stick horizontally at a low level)
Very short.	(Lower the stick)
Shorter...	(Lower the stick even further and squat if you are able)
No one stood taller than Zacchaeus that day in the eyes of the Lord.	(Stand up tall and hold sticks vertically)
And Jesus said, “Today, salvation has come to this house.”	(Make an upside down V with the sticks to form the roof of a house)
“For Zacchaeus repented of his sin.”	
“Even though he is broken...”	(Drop sticks dramatically)
“I will make his life new.”	(Pick up sticks)
“He was lost...”	(Drop sticks dramatically again)

“But now he is found!”	(Hold sticks out in front)
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The word “repentance” came up in our story today. To repent means to change your mind and your heart.

How did Zacchaeus change his mind and his heart in this story? How can you tell?

Take student responses.

He went from a life of cheating and stealing to a life of generosity. He gave half of all his possessions to the poor and he didn’t just pay back what he owed, he generously gave people four times as much money as he took from them! When we change our minds and hearts, it is revealed in how we live our lives. Our lives should look different!

Why do you think Zacchaeus made such a drastic change?

Take student responses.

Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus even in his sin! Jesus came to be a guest at his house even though all the others in his town disliked and despised him.

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he confessed his sin. He turned his heart away from the world and toward Jesus. He found God’s love and joy filled his heart. It’s Jesus’s love for us that makes us new. It’s Jesus’s love that changes the course of our lives.



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God’s truth.

When Zacchaeus encountered Jesus, his life was never the same. How did Zacchaeus change?

Take student responses.

Zacchaeus gave away half of his possessions to the poor, returned the money from the people that he cheated and gave them four times as much in return! Zacchaeus once lived a greedy life, but when he met Jesus, he began to live generously!

People who have changed their hearts and minds show the evidence in how they live their life. Not only did Zacchaeus’s heart and mind change when he met Jesus, but his life changed too. His life looked completely different!

Zacchaeus, the rich tax collector, became a generous person with a love for Jesus and for others.

This is what God's Word says about living new lives:

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

Jesus transforms our lives into something beautiful and new when we believe and follow Him!

Remember the game of opposites that we played at the beginning of the lesson? Let's play this game again, but now let's think of opposites that apply to our own lives. For example, if the challenge word was lying, what do you think the opposite would be?

Take student responses.

That's right! The opposite of lying would be telling the truth! Let's try a few more together.

Opposites Challenge, Part 2!

Read from the following actions and behaviors below and ask students to respond with the opposite behavior or action. The suggested opposites are noted in parentheses; however, some students may have some other suggestions that fit as well.

- **Stealing** (giving generously)
- **Lying** (telling the truth)
- **Bullying** (showing kindness)
- **Hitting** (showing care for others)
- **Getting angry** (showing forgiveness)
- **Selfishness** (putting others first)
- **Worrying** (trusting God)

Now I have a question for all of you. Do you think it's possible to change our lives all on our own?

Take student responses.

God doesn't ask us to do it alone. Zacchaeus needed to meet Jesus and experience his kindness and love before changes could be made in his life. The same is true for us: we need to meet and encounter Jesus too! God's

love revealed to us through Jesus is so powerful that it can transform our lives into something new!

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Close in prayer together.

Some kids have trouble obeying their parents. Others might struggle to be kind to others. Others might keep messing up by saying things they shouldn't.

If you are willing, share with students an area in your own life where you need God to bring new life.

We all need Jesus to help us live more like him. We can pray and ask for his help. You can share out loud if you would like, or you can pray quietly.

After a moment of silent prayer, lead students to pray aloud together:

Dear God,

Thank you that your kindness and grace leads me into a new life. Help me to live more like Jesus each and every day!

Amen

Take prayer requests and close the group in prayer.