**A group of trees in a forest

Description automatically generated**

**Day 1**

|  |
| --- |
| **Faith Fact**  I can know Jesus.  **Faith Verse**  Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)  “If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”  **Question of the Day: How can you get close to Jesus?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Luke 19:1–5

Stories of Jesus’ healings and miracles spread quickly. So, it’s not surprising that crowds gathered when Jesus came to a town. Everyone was curious about Jesus. But all the people around Him made it challenging to get close to Him. When Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to town, he wanted to see Him. We know Zacchaeus was a Jewish tax collector, which meant many people considered him to be a traitor to his own people. He was also pretty short. That made it difficult for Zacchaeus to even get a glimpse of Jesus, but he didn’t give up! He was determined to see Jesus.

There were probably other people who didn’t get close to Jesus that day, let alone spend time with Him. The story of Zacchaeus reminds us that if we desire to draw close to Jesus, we must look for ways to interact with Him every day. When we read our Bible and talk to Jesus in prayer, it’s like climbing a tree to get closer to Jesus.

**Talk about It**

|  |
| --- |
| **Question 1.** What did Zacchaeus do so he could see Jesus?  **Answer 1.** He climbed a tree. (Luke 19:4) |
| **Question 2.** If you heard that Jesus was coming to your town, would you go and see Him? Why or why not?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3**. Do you think Zacchaeus was excited to have Jesus come to his house? Why or why not?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** How would you feel if Jesus chose you out of a crowd and said He was coming to your house?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** How can you get close to Jesus?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for wanting a relationship with me. Help me to see how I can get close to You. Amen.

**Day 2**

|  |
| --- |
| **Faith Fact**  I can know Jesus.  **Faith Verse**  Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)  “If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”  **Question of the Day: How can you show other people that you love Jesus?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Luke 19:6–10

This meeting with Jesus changed Zacchaeus’s life. The changes spilled over on others around him. Even the people who didn’t like Zacchaeus because he was a tax collector could see that he was different after spending time with Jesus. In fact, Zacchaeus promised to give back four times extra if he had cheated anyone in the past.

Every day when we spend time with Jesus, He will change us too. It might not happen all at once. But each time we’re with Jesus, we will slowly change to live and love others more like Him. When we love Jesus, we become more like Him, and that becomes obvious to others. Maybe they will see you caring for someone who’s lonely or sharing your things with someone in need. Those are just a few ways to show others that you care.

**Talk about It**

|  |
| --- |
| **Question 1.** What did Zacchaeus say he would do after Jesus was at his house?  **Answer 1.** Give half of his wealth to the poor and pay back four times as much if he had cheated anyone on their taxes. (Luke 19:8) |
| **Question 2.** How do you think Zacchaeus felt about Jesus after spending time with Him?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Our Faith Verse, Jeremiah 29:13, says we should look for God wholeheartedly. Do you think Zacchaeus did that with Jesus? Why or why not?  **Answer 3.** Answers may vary. |
| **Question 4.** Do you ever struggle to believe that Jesus wants to spend time with you? Why?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** How can you show other people that you love Jesus?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, please help me to live in a way that shows others how You have changed my life. I want them to know that You love them very much. Amen.

**Day 3**

|  |
| --- |
| **Faith Fact**  I can know Jesus.  **Faith Verse:**  Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)  “If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”  **Question of the Day: Who does Jesus look for?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Luke 15:1–7

Some people around Jesus couldn’t understand why He would want to be with sinners. That’s one reason Jesus told this story. In Jesus’ day, sheep were very valuable. The more sheep you had, the richer you were. So when Jesus told a story about someone leaving ninety-nine sheep behind, it would have got people’s attention. And then to say that someone would do it to go after one lost sheep was teaching something important. It showed how important saving someone who is a sinner is to Jesus.

That’s why Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus. Some people thought Zacchaeus was a terrible person. They didn’t understand that Jesus wanted to reach everyone. Jesus came to look for and save those who need Him (Luke 19:10). That means He pursues everyone, including the worst sinners who have made a lot of mistakes.

Do you have a friend or family member who doesn’t know Jesus? Ask Jesus if there is anything you need to do so this person will come to Him.

**Talk about It**

|  |
| --- |
| **Question 1.** What did the shepherd look for in the story?  **Answer 1.** The lost sheep (Luke 15:4) |
| **Question 2.** What did the shepherd do when he arrived back home with the lost sheep?  **Answer 2.** He called together his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him. (Luke 15:6) |
| **Question 3.** Who does Jesus look for?  **Answer 3.** Everyone who needs Him because they need forgiveness for their sins, the mistakes they’ve made (Luke 15:7) |
| **Question 4.** Was there ever a time when you felt like Jesus was looking for you? Tell about it.  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** How does it make you feel to know that Jesus wants to be your friend, regardless of the mistakes you’ve made?  **Answer 5.** Answers may vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for looking for me when I didn’t know You. I pray for those who need to know You. I’m glad You came to look for them and save them. I pray that everyone I know will see You, pursue You, and surrender to You. Amen.

**Day 4**

|  |
| --- |
| **Faith Fact**  I can know Jesus.  **Faith Verse**  Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)  “If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.”  **Question of the Day: What good gift does God want to give you?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Ephesians 2:8–10

Before Zacchaeus met Jesus, he probably didn’t feel like he was a masterpiece of God. People called him a sinner. But Jesus said salvation came to his house. Because of that moment with Jesus, Zacchaeus became something new. He was a masterpiece who God made new through His love and mercy. Zacchaeus showed others that Jesus had changed him.

New life comes when we’re saved. It’s the gift that these verses in Ephesians talk about. We can’t earn it. It isn’t a reward for things we do for God. Salvation is free, and it’s a gift from God. Because Jesus came to earth and died for our sins, we can be saved.

**Talk about It**

|  |
| --- |
| **Question 1.** What did people call Zacchaeus?  **Answer 1.** A sinner |
| **Question 2.** Do you think Zacchaeus believed he was valuable to God? Why or why not?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Do you feel like you’re very valuable to God? Why?  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** What good gift does God want to give you?  **Answer 4.** Salvation, forgiveness of sins (verse 8) |
| **Question 5.** Why can we receive the gift of salvation?  **Answer 5.** Because Jesus came to earth and died for our sins (Ephesians 2:10) |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, thank You for preparing good things for me. This tells me that You were thinking about me long before I knew about You. Help me to believe that I am valuable to You. Thank You for Your gift of salvation most of all. Amen.