

Jesus, My Friend

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Zacchaeus as a friend of Jesus.
- The children will state that Zacchaeus was happy to be Jesus' friend.
- The children will thank Jesus for being their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Up a Tree

Life Application: Be a Friend

Craft: 'Zacchaeus' Tree

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



Jesus, My Friend

Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a preclass center. Have no more than six children at each center.

Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.

Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.



Jesus, My Friend

Up a Tree

This Bible story will teach the children that Jesus wants to be their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Materials

- sample craft of 'Zacchaeus' Tree from the craft teacher
IMPORTANT: The craft teacher has been asked to make a sample craft for you to use during the Bible Story.

Preparation

1. Practice telling the story with the teaching picture and craft so that you are confident and animated and can give the children your full attention.
2. Familiarize yourself with the song.

Zacchaeus

Open your Bible in your lap. Show the teaching picture on the other side of this card. *The Bible says that Jesus traveled to many places to teach the people about God. When he came to each town all the people would run to see him. Remember how the mommies and daddies brought the children to see Jesus? What did Jesus do? That's right, he hugged them. Let's give a friend a hug. Jesus loves children.*

One day in a town named Jericho the people heard someone say that Jesus was coming to visit. Everyone ran to see Jesus. Listen to all the footsteps of the people. Pat your hands on your knees to indicate footsteps. Encourage the children to make these motions with you.

In the town there was a man named Zacchaeus who was not very tall; he was short. He wanted to see Jesus very badly. Point to Zacchaeus in the teaching picture. Zacchaeus was so short that he could not see over the crowd of people. Put your hand above your eyes and look for Jesus. So, what did Zacchaeus do? He climbed a tree! Make climbing motions with your arms.

Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Put your hand over your eyes and look up. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today" (Luke 19:5). Wave your arm in a gesture to call Zacchaeus from the tree. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend. Jesus wants to be our friend, too.

Save the 'Zacchaeus' Tree for Unit 5 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

Conclusion

Sing "Zacchaeus" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet. Using the sample craft, show how Zacchaeus "climbed" up the tree to see Jesus. Show how he climbed down when Jesus called to him.

Jesus said, "You are my friends." We want to be a friend to Jesus, too, don't we? Let's say that together. "You are my friends."

Ask the children these questions for review:

- Who did Zacchaeus want to see? (Jesus)
- Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus? (He was too short.)
- What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus better? (He climbed a tree.)
- What did Jesus say to him? (I want to go to your house.)

Teacher Tips

If time allows, ask the children to point to the teaching picture and identify both Jesus and Zacchaeus.

Jesus, My Friend



Jesus, My Friend

Be a Friend

The children will learn that friends say, "I'm sorry" after hurting someone.

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Materials

For the teacher:

- felt board figures from Unit 4, Lesson 1, Life Application.
- felt board with black background
- watercolor markers or crayons
- 1 piece of white poster board, 8½" x 11"
- glue stick
- scissors
- laminate or clear contact paper
- small piece of brown construction paper or a small paper bag
- a small picture of food for a prop
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Color the felt board figure of Cory from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Glue the copy of the figure to the piece of poster board. Cut out the figure.
3. Cover the figure with laminate.
4. Make a small football out of brown construction paper.
5. Roll a piece of masking tape and place it on the back of each figure and the football and food props so they will adhere to the felt board.
6. Practice telling the story in this activity using the felt board figures and the props.

Instructions

Show the children each felt board figure and remind the children of their names. *Remember this family? This is the daddy and this is the mommy. This is the brother, David, and his sister, Lesli.*

Sing "My Own Loving Family" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet.

Introduce the new figure as David's friend, Cory.

Using the felt board figures and props, act out the different roles in the following story.

"Mommy, can I have Cory over to play?" David asked his mommy one day.

"Sure," said his mommy. "Let's call him." David was so excited that his friend was coming over that he thought about it all day. He thought about it when he played ball with his sister. He thought about it when he ate his lunch. He thought about it even when he lay down for his nap.

When he woke up from his nap, he was so excited! "Is it time? Is it time?" he asked his mommy.

"Yes," she said, laughing. Just then a car pulled up, and Cory got out of the car and came to the door.

"Hi David," Cory said, smiling. "Look what my grandpa bought me. It's a football. Do you want to play with me?" Place the football prop onto the felt board.

"Sure," said David.

"Let's go outside, and I'll show you how I can kick the football really high," Cory said.

The boys went outside together and kicked the ball. When David's turn was over he wouldn't give the ball back to Cory.

David's mommy came to tell them that she had made a snack for them to enjoy. Place the food prop onto the felt board. She noticed that Cory was very sad. "Cory," she said, "what is wrong?"

"David won't give me back the football," cried Cory.

David's mommy said in a stern voice, "David, give that football back to Cory right now and come with me." David gave the football to his friend very slowly, and then he slowly walked toward his mom. "Why are you being mean to your friend?" she asked him.

David started to cry. "Cory has a football. I want a football, too."

"But he is your friend," said mommy. "Jesus said to love one another. Are you loving Cory by sharing the football, or are you being mean to him?"

"Being mean," he said slowly.

"You need to love Cory. He came over here to play with you and to share his new football with you. You need to change your heart. Tell Cory you love him, and you are very sorry."

David went into the living room and put his arms around his

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friend. "I am sorry, Cory," he said. "Will you please forgive me for being mean to you?"

"Yes," said Cory, smiling. "Do you want to hold my football?"

"Yes. Why don't we go outside, and we can kick it to each other," said David. "You are a good friend, Cory."

Save the felt board figures and props for Unit 5 Lesson 4, Life Application.

Bible Truth Activity

David needed to learn to be a good friend, didn't he? Jesus is a good friend to all of us. Jesus said, "You are my friends." Let's say this together. "You are my friends."

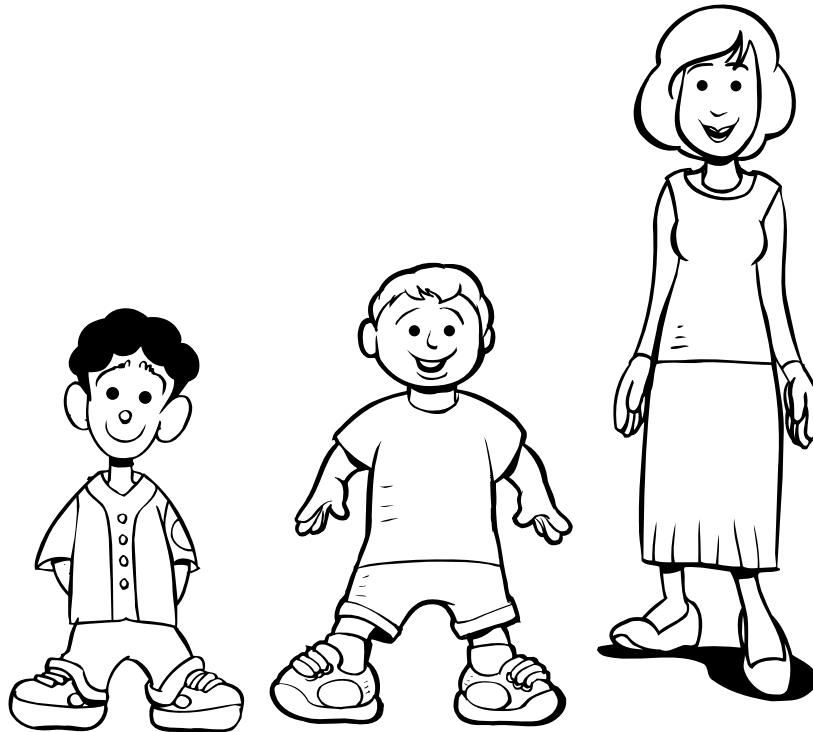
Conclusion

Let's thank Jesus for our friends. Thank you, Jesus, for giving us friends and for being our friend. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about Bible class today? What are you going to tell them?

Teacher Tips

- Family figures and props will be used again in other lessons, so be sure to handle and store them carefully.



Jesus, My Friend

'Zacchaeus' Tree

The children will make a craft that will help them identify Zacchaeus as Jesus' friend in the tree.

Materials

For each child

- 1 piece of construction paper (any color except green or brown)
- 1 piece of string or floss, 18"
- glue stick
- crayons (optional)

For the teacher:

- 5 pieces of brown construction paper
- 5 pieces of green construction paper
- marker
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out Zacchaeus and the tree figures from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Punch out the small holes on both Zacchaeus and the tree, as indicated on the figures.
3. Cut out 1/2" squares of green and brown construction paper. Cut approximately 15 green pieces and 5 brown pieces for each child.
4. Make THREE models of the craft following the instructions. IMPORTANT: One model is used for the craft example, the second model is for the Core Bible Story teacher and the last model is for the Supplement Bible Story teacher. Please make arrangements to get the models to the appropriate teachers.

Instructions

1. Show the children your model of the completed craft. Demonstrate how Zacchaeus moves up and down the tree by pulling the string. *This is Zacchaeus from our Bible story today. He climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus saw him he wanted to be his friend.*
2. Give each child a piece of construction paper and a tree figure. Have the child glue the tree to the center of the paper.
3. Have the children glue their pieces of green construction paper to the tops of their trees. Give them their pieces of brown construction paper and have them glue these to the trunks of their trees.
4. Give each child a Zacchaeus figure to color.
5. Punch the holes in the tree so that they continue through the construction paper.
6. Thread the string through the holes in the Zacchaeus figure, as shown in Figure A.
7. Thread the ends of the string through the holes in the tree, tying them in the back of the construction paper. See Figure B.
8. On the front of each picture, write: Jesus said, "You are my friends." See Figure C.
9. Write the children's names on their papers.

Conclusion

Talk about Jesus' love for Zacchaeus, and how he wanted to be his friend. Tell the children that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend, too.

Teacher Tips

- If you need to use yarn instead of string or floss, cover the ends with tape so that they will pass through the holes more easily.

Jesus, My Friend

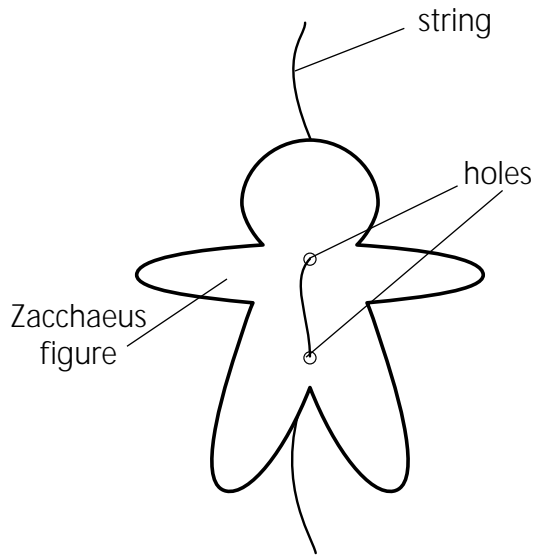
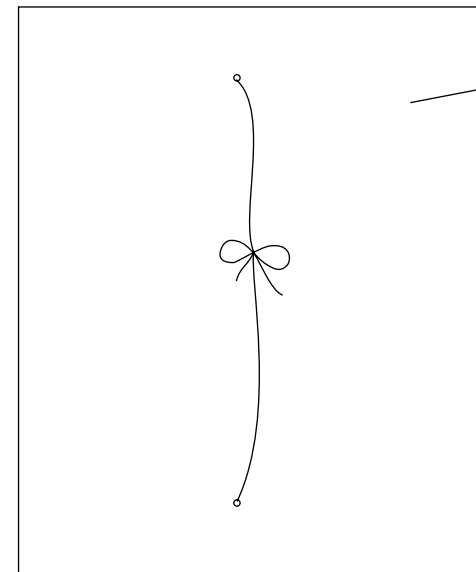


Figure A



back of
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paper

Figure B

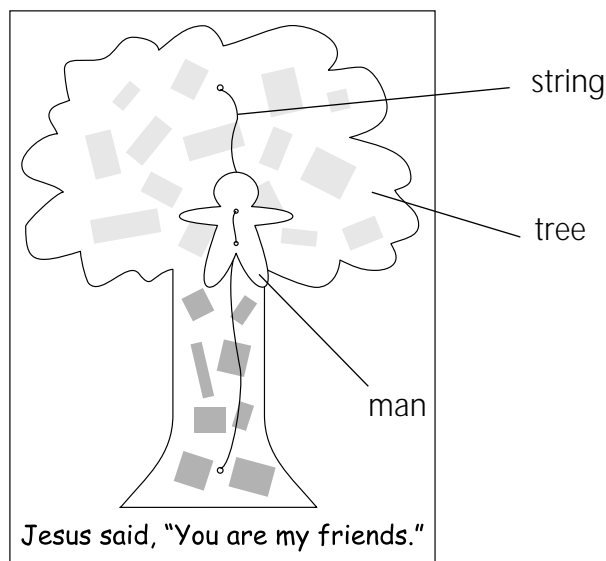


Figure C



Jesus, My Friend

Jesus Loves Me

Lesson 3

Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Zacchaeus as a friend of Jesus.
- The children will state that Zacchaeus was happy to be Jesus' friend.
- The children will thank Jesus for being their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Bible Truth

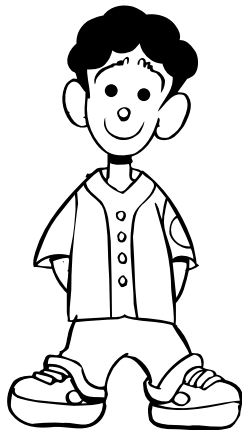
"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Preclass Centers

As the children arrive, guide them to a pre-class center. Have no more than six children at each center.

Materials

Use the materials previously selected for this unit's preclass centers.



Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Preclass Centers

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: A Party for Jesus

Bible Story: Up a Tree

Craft: 'Jesus' Watch

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

Preparation

1. Be sure to check the condition of the materials selected for this unit's preclass centers prior to set up. Replace any broken toys, or puzzles with missing pieces as necessary.
2. Set up the centers before the children come into the classroom.
3. Assign a teacher to each center and have the teachers stay in those centers until the singing begins.

Instructions

Guide the play in each center reinforcing the unit theme.

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Do not allow any small toys in the classroom. First check all toys for size. You can obtain a "safety cylinder" from a pediatrician. Any object that can fit into the cylinder is too small and could cause a child to choke.
- Be involved in the group play and offer guidance as needed.
- Wear comfortable clothes suitable for sitting on the floor.
- Smile! Be childlike in heart and alert in mind.

Life

Application

A Party for Jesus

The children will enjoy a party for Jesus reinforcing the Bible Truth that Jesus is our friend.

Bible Truth

"You are my friends."
(John 15:14)

Materials

For each child:

- napkin
- cup
- cookies
- juice

For the teacher:

- poster board
- markers
- crayons
- party decorations or streamers (optional)
- party favors (optional)

Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

Instructions

1. Say to the children: *Zacchaeus had Jesus over to his house for a party and invited all of his friends so they could meet Jesus. Let's pretend we are having Jesus over for a party at our house. What do we need for our party? We need napkins, cookies and juice. We need a sign that says, "We love you, Jesus." What else do we need to do? Let's give Jesus a chair.*
2. Let the children help you make a sign. Let the children each add something to the sign. They can color, add streamers, etc.
3. Say to the children: *What do we want to tell Jesus? What do you think Zacchaeus wanted to tell Jesus? Yes. He wanted to thank Jesus for being his friend. Can everyone say thanks to Jesus? Thank you, Jesus, for being my friend.*
4. Say to the children: *Let's pretend Jesus is here for our party. Come in! Come in! Let's pretend we are giving him a hug. Let's show Jesus to his chair. Jesus, would you like some juice and cookies?*

5. Serve everyone and then pray before you begin eating.
6. Say to the children: *It was fun having Jesus at our party, but it is time for him to go. Let's all give him a hug and say goodbye. Goodbye, Jesus. We love you Jesus!*

Bible Truth Activity

Do you remember what Jesus told Zacchaeus when he came to his house? Jesus said, "You are my friend." Let's all say this together: "You are my friend." Jesus is our friend, isn't he? He also wants us to be friends to each other. Let's say the Bible Truth to each other. Repeat the Bible Truth using the children's names. For example say, *Greg, you are my friend.*

Conclusion

I'm so thankful that Jesus wants to be our friend. Let's thank him for loving us. Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and for wanting to be our friend. We love you. Amen.

Who are you going to tell about today's Bible class? What are you going to tell them that you learned?

Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- **IMPORTANT:** Do not serve any foods that may be choking hazards, such as nuts or hard candies.
- Ask a disciple to dress up as Jesus and be the guest of honor at your party. Try to ask someone that may need extra encouragement.



Up a Tree

This Bible story will teach the children that Jesus wants to be their friend.

Bible Story Text

Luke 19:1-10

Materials

- sample craft of 'Zacchaeus' Tree from the core craft teacher
IMPORTANT: The core craft teacher has been asked to make a sample craft for you to use during the Bible Story.

Preparation

1. Practice telling the story with the teaching picture and craft so that you are confident and animated and can give the children your full attention.
2. Familiarize yourself with the song.

Zacchaeus

Open your Bible in your lap. Show the teaching picture on the other side of this card. *The Bible says that Jesus traveled to many places to teach the people about God. When he came to each town all the people would run to see him. Remember how the mommies and daddies brought the children to see Jesus? What did Jesus do? That's right, he hugged them. Let's give a friend a hug. Jesus loves children.*

One day in a town named Jericho the people heard someone say that Jesus was coming to visit. Everyone ran to see Jesus. Listen to all the footsteps of the people. Pat your hands on your knees to indicate footsteps. Encourage the children to make these motions with you.

In the town there was a man named Zacchaeus who was not very tall; he was short. He wanted to see Jesus very badly. Point to Zacchaeus in the teaching picture. Zacchaeus was so short that he could not see over the crowd of people. Put your hand above your eyes and look for Jesus. So, what did Zacchaeus do? He climbed a tree! Make climbing motions with your arms.

Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. Put your hand over your eyes and look up. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today" (Luke 19:5). Wave your arm in a gesture to call Zacchaeus from the tree. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus wanted to be his friend. Jesus wants to be our friend, too.

Save the 'Zacchaeus' Tree for Unit 5 Lesson 4, Bible Story.

Conclusion

Sing "Zacchaeus" from the Unit 5 Song Sheet. Using the sample craft, show how Zacchaeus "climbed" up the tree to see Jesus. Show how he climbed down when Jesus called to him.

Jesus said, "You are my friends." We want to be a friend to Jesus, too, don't we? Let's say that together. "You are my friends."

Ask the children these questions for review:

- Who did Zacchaeus want to see? (Jesus)
- Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus? (He was too short.)
- What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus better? (He climbed a tree.)
- What did Jesus say to him? (I want to go to your house.)

Teacher Tips

If time allows, ask the children to point to the teaching picture and identify both Jesus and Zacchaeus.





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t**'Jesus' Watch**

This craft will remind the children that Jesus loves them all the time.

Materials

For each child:

- 1" strip of self-adhesive Velcro material
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- colored construction paper or colored foam material
- red construction paper
- stickers
- fine black marker or felt pen

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for every five children
- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the watch faces from the copies of the Reproducible Page C.
2. Cut out the watchband and heart stencil from the copy of the Reproducible Page D.
3. Trace the watchband onto the colored construction paper and cut out one for each child.
4. Trace and cut out the heart from the red construction paper. Cut one for each child.
5. Using the fine marker, write "Jesus Loves Me All of the Time."
6. Make a model of the watch following the instructions.

Instructions

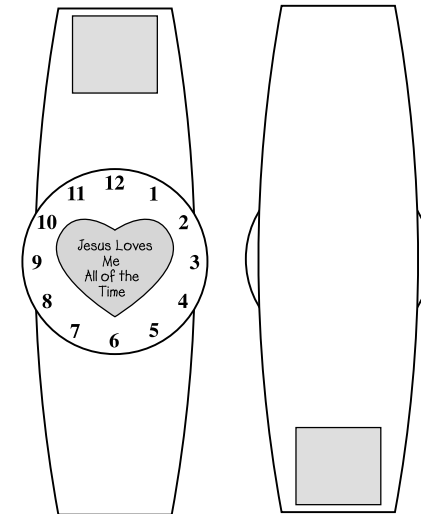
1. Give each child a watchband and a watch face. Have the child glue the watch face to the middle of the watchband. See Figure A.
2. Give each child a heart to glue to the middle of the watch face. See Figure B.
3. Attach the two parts of the Velcro strip to the children's watchbands, as shown in Figure C.
4. Give the children stickers and crayons and have them decorate their watches.
5. Write the children's names on the back of their watchbands.

Conclusion

Mommy and Daddy have watches to tell them when to go to work or when to cook dinner. They can tell what time it is when they look at their watches. When we look at our watches we know that Jesus loves us all the time. Jesus is our friend.

Teacher Tips

- Although the children have little concept of time and cannot read a watch, they will recognize and enjoy having a watch like Mommy's or Daddy's watch.
- If you can't find Velcro material, cut two slits in the ends of the band and slide one into the other. Another way to attach the band is to tape the watch around the child's wrist loosely so it will slide on and off easily.



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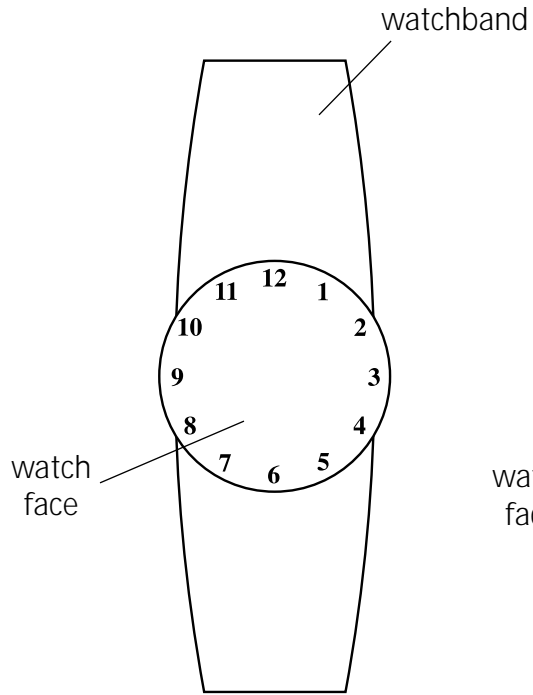


Figure A

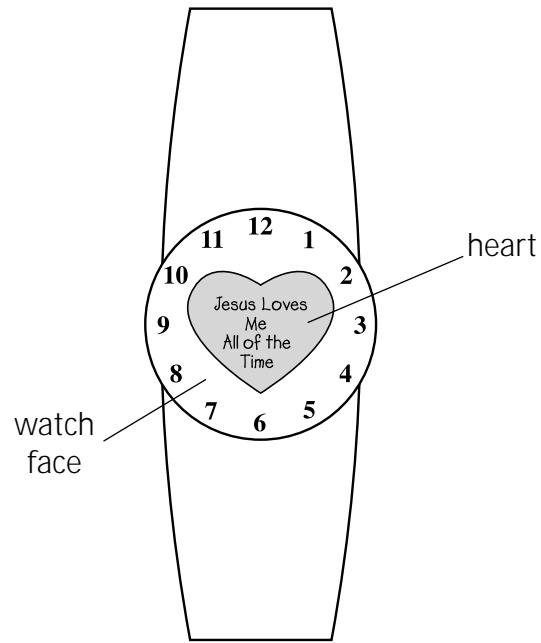


Figure B

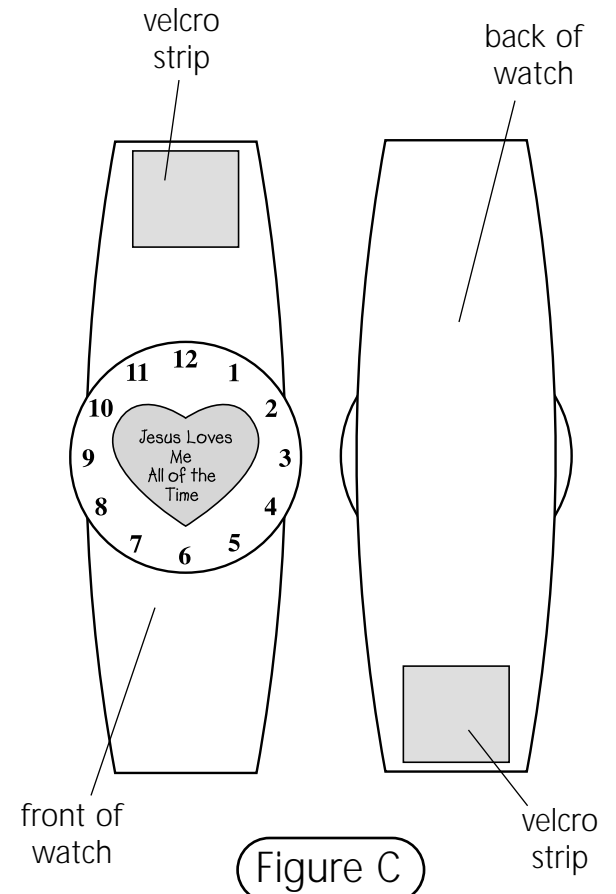


Figure C



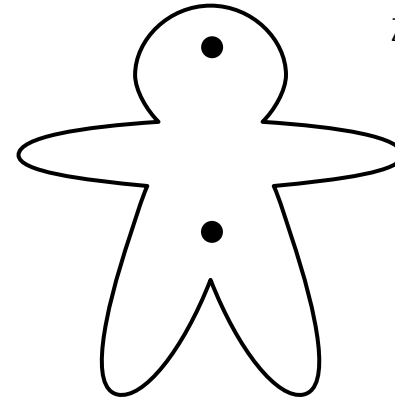
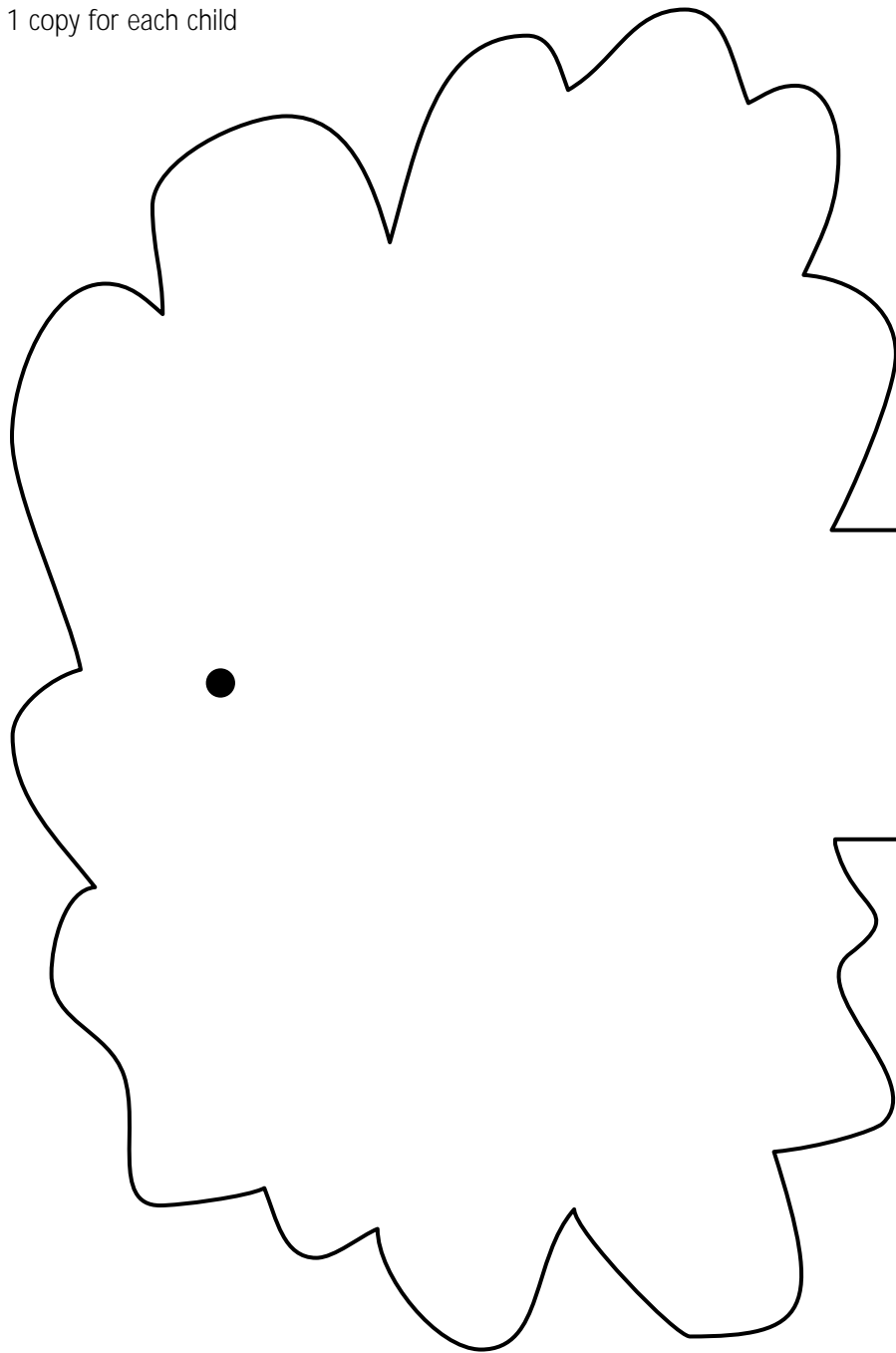


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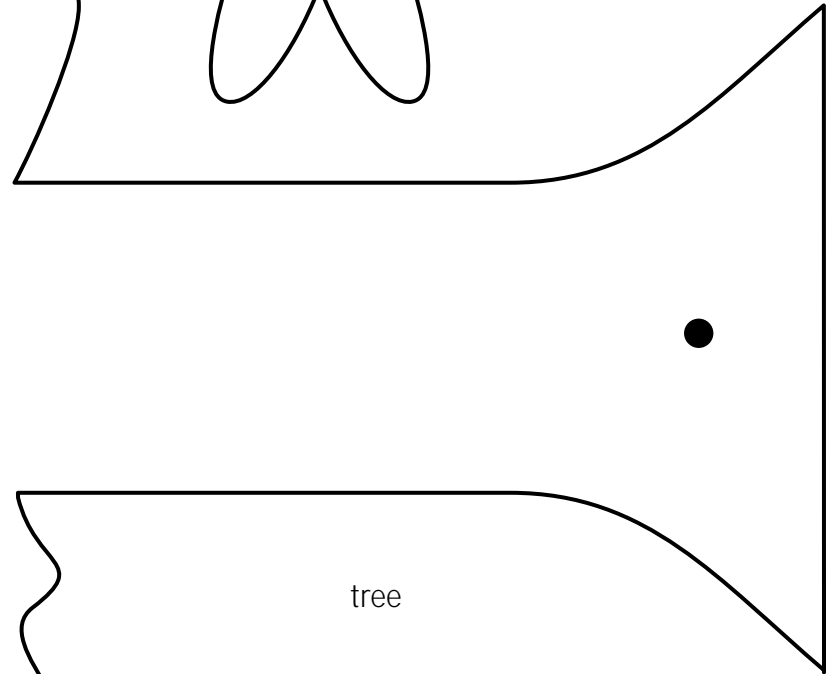


Cory





Zacchaeus



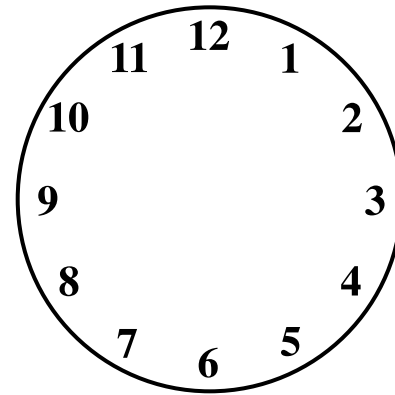
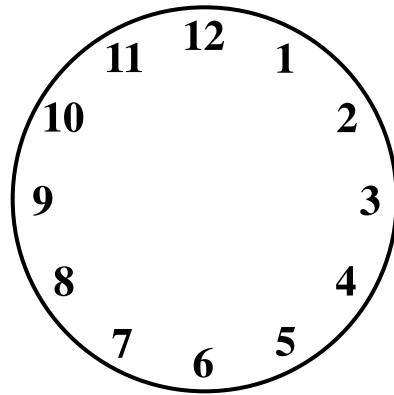
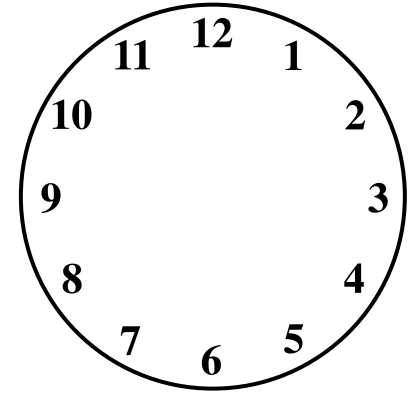
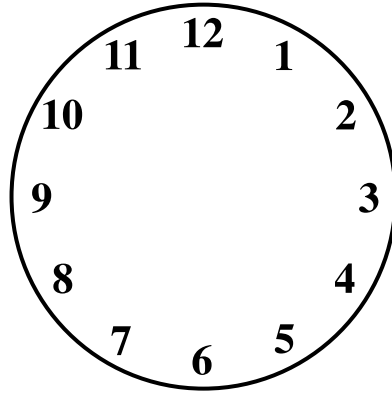
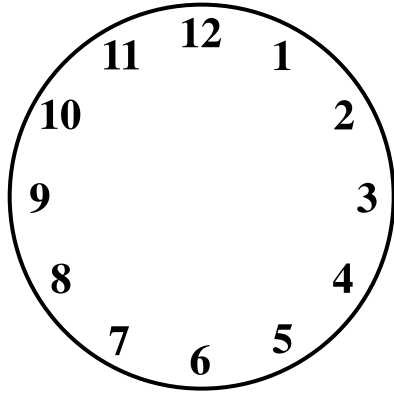
tree



watch faces

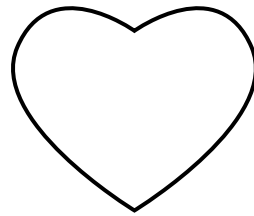


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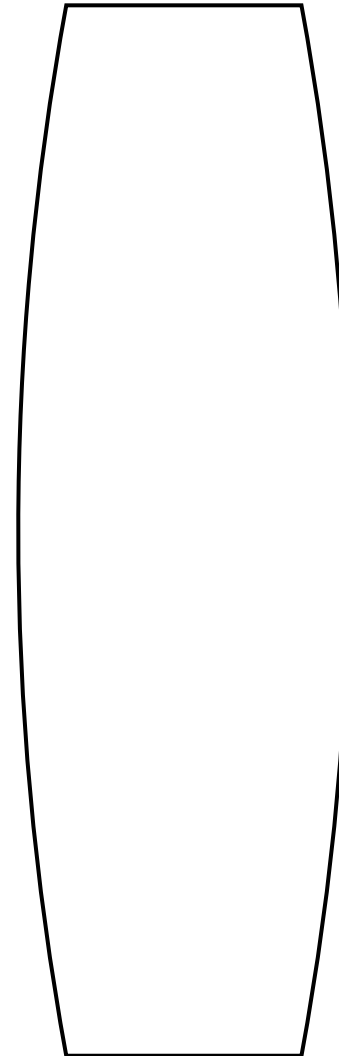




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heart stencil



watchband stencil

