

# 4

## Fix What You Can

LUKE 19:1-10



### GOAL

In the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19, children hear that repairing what has been broken and restoring what was taken is important in fixing relationships damaged by something wrong that was done.

- A** Art
- AM** Active/Movement
- C** Conversation
- D** Drama
- F** Food
- G** Game
- M** Music
- NS** Nature/Science
- QC** Quiet/Contemplative
- S** Service
- T** Technology
- X** Extra Prep

Note: bit.ly addresses are case-sensitive.



### PRAYER

God, help me fix any brokenness I have caused with you and with others. Amen.

## THIS SESSION

Whenever we have done something wrong, something gets broken. It may be an actual object, but more than likely it is feelings that get hurt or relationships that get damaged. Think back to the Genesis story in the first session; when the first humans broke the rule God had given them, their relationship with God was also broken. The final part of confession is *repair*. We try to repair what has been broken, whether that's gluing a cup back together or rebuilding a friendship. Sometimes, though, the damage is too great or the brokenness is beyond repair. We do what we can to fix things, but occasionally we may have to realize that the fixing may be out of our control.

## THE BIBLE STORY

Luke 19:1–10 is the story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector from Jericho who had dinner with Jesus. Upon meeting with Jesus, he decided to give away half of everything that he owned to the poor. As a tax collector, he would have been wealthy and had more resources than he needed. Then he promised that, if he had defrauded anyone, he would not only pay them back, but make *reparations* and pay back four times what he had cheated them out of. Zacchaeus wanted to make things right and fix them.

## CONNECTIONS WITH CHILDREN

Children will be practicing ways to help fix the mistakes they make.

## SESSION PREPARATION

- “Centers” (p. 44): Set up the following centers:
  - Home center with kitchen and home items
  - Building center with blocks or other building materials
  - Puzzle center with simple wooden puzzles
- “Walking God’s Path” (p. 44): Practice the motions for the opening ritual, which has been used in each session of this unit. Also: Use the path created in session 1 or set up a path in your room that you can walk along with the children. This could be walking between a row of chairs; on a sheet, a blanket, or papers on the floor; or along a piece of tape on the floor.

Depending on the options you choose:

- “Fixing Broken Things” (p. 45): Make card-stock copies of Resource Page 2. Cut out heart pieces and use a single-hole punch to punch holes where indicated. Make a set of heart pieces for each child. Tear copies of Resource Page 3 into two pieces.



## GETTING STARTED

- 
- Home center
  - Building center
  - Puzzle center

### CENTERS

AM D

As the children enter, greet them by name and welcome them into the space. Invite them to play in the centers you have set up. As the children play, circulate among the centers and engage them in conversation about what they are doing.

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- Bible
  - Prepared path
  - Resource Page 1 from session 1 (p. 13)

### WALKING GOD'S PATH

AM X

Gather by the path you have set up in your space. Read Psalm 119:105. Tell the children that loving God and loving others is like walking on God's path. Invite the children to follow you as you walk slowly along the path. Explain that, when we do something we know we shouldn't do, that is like stumbling along the path, getting stuck in the mud, or turning off God's path. (*Stop and move off the path.*) Tell the children that to find our way back to God's path is to admit what we've done wrong. (*Brush yourself off and move back on to the path.*)

Using Resource Page 1 from session 1, invite the children to repeat after you and follow your motions.



## INTRODUCING THE PRACTICE

- 
- Internet-connected device

### WHAT NEEDS FIXING?

T C

Set up the video clip by telling the children that they are going to watch a clip from a *Llama Llama* video where Llama has broken his mother's vase. Llama has gone to his friend Luna Giraffe's house for help. Luna explains that something similar happened to her with a picture frame, but she told her mother and together they fixed the picture frame. This also fixed any hurt Luna's mother felt by Luna breaking the picture frame. The clip begins in Luna's bedroom with Luna, Llama, and Nelly Gnu.

Show the YouTube video "Fixing a Broken Vase! Llama Llama Episode Clip" ([bit.ly/FMLlamaVase](https://bit.ly/FMLlamaVase), 2:29). Reflect on the video with the following questions:

- Why do you think Llama was at Luna's house?
- How did Luna handle breaking the picture frame?
- How is that different from what Llama is doing?
- What do you think Llama should say to his mother? One of the stories he thought up or something else?
- How do you think Llama can fix the hurt he may have caused his mother?

Remind the children that the steps of confessing are:

- 1) See that you've done something wrong. Llama broke his mom's vase.
- 2) Say that you are sorry. Llama didn't tell his mother and tried to hide that he had broken the vase.

- 3) Feel bad about what you have done and want to do better. Llama feels bad, but it seems like he's trying to stay out of trouble rather than admit to his mother that he did something wrong.
- 4) Fix what you can. Llama tried to fix the vase but also tried to pass it off as if nothing had happened. Wonder together if Llama tried to fix any hurt feelings his mother may have had about him breaking her vase or hiding that from her.

Tell the children that today's session is about how we may fix, or repair, what may be broken or damaged when we do something wrong or make a mistake. Explain that this may be something we actually can repair, or it may be something that cannot be repaired, but we need to try to repair hurt feelings.



## FINDING THE PRACTICE IN THE BIBLE

### ZACCHAEUS'S STORY

Read the Bible story on Resource Page 1, which is based on Luke 19:1–10. Engage the children in conversation using the following questions:

- What do you think Zacchaeus did wrong?
- Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to change?
- Why did he decide to give away things to people?
- How do you think the people he hurt felt when they heard Zacchaeus's words?
- How do you think we can fix mistakes we have made when we hurt others?

Resource Page 1



## FINDING THE PRACTICE ALL AROUND US

Choose one or both options.

### FIXING BROKEN THINGS



Tell the children that, when things get broken, we try to repair them. Explain that the same is true whether the broken or hurt thing is someone's feelings, a project, or an item.

Set up three centers for lacing, taping, and building. Show the children the centers and invite the children to practice fixing things by mending a heart to show how we care for each other's feelings, by taping a picture back together, and by building a bridge between two toy people or stuffed animals. Children may spend time at one station or move between them. They may want to color the heart or picture as well.

After they have had some time to fix things, gather the children and talk together using the following questions:

- We can't really lace up someone's heart when we hurt their feelings. What can we do that would make them feel better and show that we are sorry?

- Prepared heart pieces from card-stock copies of Resource Page 2
- Yarn or string
- Torn copies of Resource Page 3
- Tape
- Crayons
- Building blocks
- Toy people or stuffed animals

- ✦ Taping a picture together puts it back in one piece, but something is different. What is different about the picture?

Point out the bridge between two toys. Tell the children that our relationships—with our family members, our friends, and God—is like having a bridge between us. When we do something wrong or hurt someone, it’s like the bridge is broken. (*Take blocks away and make a gap.*) Wonder together what we need to do to rebuild the bridge between us and others or us and God. (*Place blocks back to reconnect the bridge.*) Tell the children that doing what we can to fix the hurt or brokenness we may have caused by doing something wrong is the final step of confessing.

- Copies of Resource Page 4
- Crayons or colored pencils

## FIXING IT!



Provide the children with crayons or colored pencils and copies of Resource Page 4. Read the panels with the children. As the children color, use the time to reflect further on how we can try to fix our mistakes. Comment that sometimes they can be fixed “good as new,” sometimes there will still be cracks left over, and sometimes it can’t be put back together, but we can always work at repairing hurt feelings. Encourage the children to share their picture with their family.



## PRACTICING THE PRACTICE

Practicing fixing things is important for children to learn to do it in the future. By allowing them to practice, they can creatively think of ways to help when they have made mistakes.

Choose one or both options.

## FOUR STEPS



- ✦ This activity has been repeated in each session of this unit because it builds on the steps involved in confession, just the way the sessions do. Repetition is an important way that young children learn.

Tell the children that there are four steps to take when they have made a mistake or done something wrong. Use the following directions, inviting the children to repeat your words and motions:

The first step is SEE, (*hold up the pointer finger*) /

seeing I did something wrong. (*point finger toward eye*) /

The second step is SAY, (*hold up 2 fingers*) /

saying, “I’m sorry” to another person or God. (*move fingers from mouth outward*) /

The third step is FEEL, (*hold up 3 fingers*) /

feeling sorry and trying my best to do better. (*place 3 fingers over heart*) /

The fourth step is FIX, (*hold up 4 fingers*) /

doing what I can to fix what is hurt or broken. (*lace fingers on both hands together*) /

Encourage the children to use the four steps when they need to confess a mistake or something they have done wrong. Suggest that they share the four steps with family members.

## HEALING HEARTS

A

Remind children of the steps of confessing. When we do something wrong: we see what we have done, we say that we are sorry, we feel badly and try to do better, and we try to fix what we can. Explain that sometimes we can actually fix something and sometimes we can't. Comment that fixing may sometimes mean repairing feelings.

Provide one color of clay or play dough for the children. Use the following directions and comments, and ask them to follow what you do with the material. Take your time, pausing so the children can follow along with each step. Assist the children as needed.

- *(Make a clay heart shape.)* Invite the children to imagine that a heart represents feelings among family members and friends.
- Suggest that, when feelings get hurt, relationships may form cracks or break. *(Use a plastic knife to cut the heart into two pieces.)*
- Tell the children that by recognizing what we've done wrong, saying that we're sorry, feeling bad about our actions, and doing better is the way the relationship is fixed and repaired. *(Provide children with a second color of clay or play dough. Use the different color material to mend the heart with bandage-shapes or by filling in the gaps.)*

Go over the instructions and why they are making a heart, "breaking it," and repairing it again. Suggest that they give the mended heart to someone when they need to fix hurt feelings.

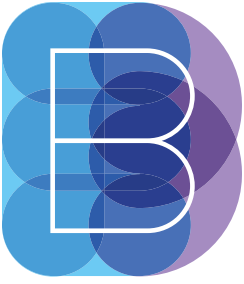
- Air-dry clay, modeling clay, or play dough in at least two colors
- Plastic knife, heart-shaped cookie cutter (optional)



## FOLLOWING JESUS

Gather the children in a circle. Pray the following prayer, inviting the children to repeat after you:

Dear God, /  
we want to love you and love others, /  
but sometimes we make mistakes /  
or do something wrong. /  
Help us to say, "I'm sorry," /  
to you and to others. /  
We feel bad. /  
Help us to do better. /  
Help us to fix what we can /  
and heal hurt feelings. /  
Thank you for loving us always! /  
Amen. /



## BIBLE STORY

### BASED ON LUKE 19:1-10

One day, Jesus was walking in a town. People followed him. People came out of their houses to see him. Zacchaeus heard about Jesus too. He heard that Jesus was kind and didn't judge people. He liked people just for who they were. Zacchaeus thought that sounded pretty nice. He was a tax collector, and many people didn't like him. He had to collect money from people to give to the government, and he got paid from their money to do it! It was like he was stealing from his own people.

Quite a crowd was gathering, filling the streets and spilling into the alleyways. Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but there was one big problem. He was a short man. The tip top of his head only came up to the shoulders of all the men and women in the street. All he could see was the backs of all the people who didn't like him very much.

But something inside him yearned to see Jesus. Zacchaeus had an idea! Just around the bend in the street where Jesus was headed was a big sycamore tree with many sturdy branches. Zacchaeus climbed that sycamore tree. He wriggled himself out on a branch . . . and just as he did, just as he saw Jesus . . . Jesus looked right up at him.

"Zacchaeus!" called Jesus. "Hurry and come down from your tree. I must go to your house today." Jesus smiled, and Zacchaeus nearly tumbled right out of that tree. Quickly, he climbed down and led Jesus to his house.

Zacchaeus was so surprised he could hardly say a word, but the crowd around them mumbled and grumbled:

"Look! Jesus is going to Zacchaeus the sinner's house!"

"Why would Jesus spend time with him? He's not done anything right his whole life!"

Zacchaeus heard the people complaining. He knew they were right. He had done some things wrong. He had made mistakes. Zacchaeus turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, I have done some wrong things, some unkind things, and I don't want to do that anymore. I'm sorry. I feel badly and I want to do better! I want to fix things. I will give half of all I have to people in need; if I have taken more than I should from anyone, I will give them back four times as much."

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, you have seen how God wants you to live! You are a good man and God loves you. Now, let's go eat!"

