BIBLICAL TIME TRAVEL ☆

Children love to pretend. This fun, make-believe activity prepares the children for today's Bible lesson.

TOPICS:

Lesson Preparation, Just for Fun

MATERIALS:

Chairs or large blanket

DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You and the kids will board an imaginary aircraft that can travel back to Biblical times. This is a great way to set the tone for your lesson. When ready, have the children help set up the pretend area. Take chairs and arrange them two or three abreast and in rows to resemble seats on an airplane. If you do not have chairs, you can spread a large blanket down on the floor, and have the children sit on it. The props are not important because children have a lot of fun just pretending. Take a seat at the front of the pretend aircraft, facing the children, so they can mimic your actions.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Everyone find a seat, and sit down. How many of you have ever flown on an airplane? How many of you like to pretend? Well today, we are going to pretend we are on a very special airplane. In fact, it is a Time Aircraft. It goes so fast, we will actually go back in time.

Our Bible lesson today is about ______ so we will be going back in time, to... (Complete this sentence as needed to introduce the location and characters of your Bible lesson.)

Is everyone ready? Okay, what's the first thing we must do before we can take off? (Allow for answers. You are looking for "fasten your seat belts.") Pretend to fasten your seat belt. Make sure everyone does.

Here are more pretend things you and the children can do to prepare for flight.

Turn off cell phones, Go over safety procedures, Put on helmets, Close windows

Now we're ready to take off. But, before we leave the runway, what else must we do? (Allow for answers. You are looking for "pray.") Lead the children in prayer for a safe flight and a willingness to learn about God.

Okay, is everyone ready? Here we go! Pretend the force of the take-off pushes you back into your seat. Here are more pretend things you and the children can do while flying very fast.

Look out the left or right side of the ship to see familiar landmarks, oceans, or mountains, etc.

Lean way to the left as the Time Ship makes right turns.

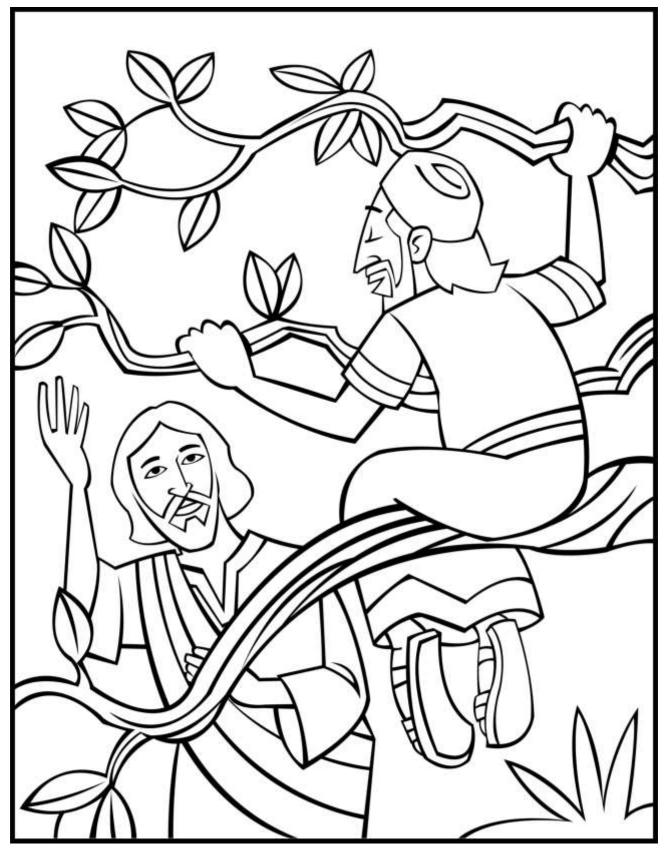
Lean way to the right as the Time Ship makes left turns.

Jump up and down in your seat to resemble turbulence.

Lean way forward in your seat to land and come to a stop.

Welcome the children to their destination when they arrive, and have everyone exit the Time Aircraft in an orderly fashion.

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Zacchaeus, come down!

SPECIAL PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE (NT)

LESSON 3: ZACCHAEUS CLIMBS A TREE ☆

Lessons in this series: 1 2 3 4 5 Overview

In this lesson, the children will learn how to watch and listen for Jesus and follow Him in obedience every day of their lives.

TOPICS

Following Jesus, Listening, Obedience, Zacchaeus

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 - 15 MINUTES)

Biblical Time Travel (Activity) Click here

The children who arrive early can help set up this activity.

Zacchaeus Come Down! (Optional Coloring Page) Click here

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 NIV

Explain to the children what it means to seek what is lost. You may want to use the parable of the lost coin found in Luke 15:8-10.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

After the introduction, read the story about Zacchaeus right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Our Bible story today is about a man who lived in Jericho. He was very short. He heard that Jesus was coming into town and wanted to see Him very much. But being so short, how would he see over the other people standing there. Let's find out what he did and what happened when Jesus came

Read Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus Climbs a Sycamore-fig Tree)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree? (To see Jesus, because he was short.)
- 2. When Jesus saw Zacchaeus, what did He say? (Zacchaeus come down.)
- 3. Did Zacchaeus do what Jesus asked? (Yes.)
- 4. At whose house did Jesus say He was going to stay? (Zacchaeus house.)
- 5. Did Zacchaeus take things from the poor, or give the poor half of what he had? (Gave half of what he had.)
- 6. Was Jesus happy that He found Zacchaeus? (Yes.)
- 7. How can we watch and be ready for Jesus? (Allow for answers.)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus (Activity) Click here

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Follow Jesus (Game) Click here

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? Click here

Thank Jesus that He came to earth to find us. Ask Him to give us a desire to follow Him every day of our life. As the children enjoy the snacks, ask them to share what they would do to see Jesus if they were living at the time of Zacchaeus. Would they climb a tree? Wake up early, Eat all of their vegetables?

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

Zacchaeus Come on Down! (Song) Click here

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to learn about more special people in the Bible.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. Click here

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