



# Walk As Jesus Did

A study for children on the life of Jesus

## Family Devotional (5/3/20)

**Key Point:** Jesus calls sinners to repent.

*Today, we want our kids to learn that Jesus calls sinners to repent - to confess their sin, turn away from it and follow Him. Genuine, saving faith is always accompanied by repentance.*

### What we want the kids to know:

- Repentance is confessing our sin and turning away from it to follow Jesus.
- God's kindness is the initiating force for our repentance. It is merciful that He shows us areas in our lives that do not resemble Jesus.
- Repentance is part of our salvation and part of our sanctification.
- See the difference between actually feeling remorse over their sin and simply being sorry, because they got caught doing something wrong.

### What we want the kids to do:

- Walk like Jesus did:
  - Confess their sin, turn away from it and follow Jesus.

**Text for Study:** Luke 19:1-10. (See also Luke 5:27-32)

Consider acting out the story of Psalm 19 as a family.

**Create discipleship time:** As a family, spend time reading and talking about God's Word.

**Give each child a blank piece of paper and create 3 columns.** Title column 1 "Zacchaeus' heart before Jesus," column 2 "Jesus calls Zacchaeus to repent," and column 3 "Zacchaeus' heart after meeting Jesus." You will fill in these columns as you answer questions.

**Define repentance for your children:** "to confess your sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus." As a family, make up motions for the definition to help them remember. Use these motions throughout your discipleship time whenever you use the word "repent" or "repentance."

1. What does Jesus do in this story?  
Jesus shows kindness to Zacchaeus in asking him to come down.
2. Why was this kind?  
Because Zacchaeus was a tax collector and sinner, but Jesus still wanted to stay with him.
3. What does it mean for someone to repent?  
It means they confess (tell God the truth about) their sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus.
4. Who repented in the story we read?  
Zacchaeus.



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**Use the next three questions to fill in your first column.**

5. Before Zacchaeus met Jesus, what was his heart like?  
It was sinful; he only focused on himself. Zacchaeus did not love God. His heart was greedy, dishonest, and selfish.
6. What kinds of things did Zacchaeus do that showed his heart was sinful?  
He stole money. He lied to people. He worked for the people who invaded Israel. He loved himself more than Jesus.
7. Was Zacchaeus a child of God before he met Jesus?  
No. Zacchaeus was not a child of God.

Tell your kids that Zacchaeus' heart changed when he met Jesus. Jesus calls sinners to repent and Zacchaeus repented and received a new heart. Emphasize that it was Jesus that caused the change.

**Draw Zacchaeus turning away from his sin and to Jesus in the second column.**

**Use the next three questions to fill in your third column.**

8. What was Zacchaeus' heart like after he met Jesus?  
He loved God as most valuable. He loved and trusted Jesus. He wanted to know and follow Jesus. He had a new heart and wanted to obey Jesus by walking as He did.
9. How did Zacchaeus' actions change after he met Jesus? What did his new heart lead him to do?  
He gladly welcomed Jesus in his home. He gave money to the people he stole from. He gave money to the poor.
10. Was Zacchaeus a child of God after meeting Jesus? How do you know?  
Yes. He repented and followed Jesus. Jesus Himself said that Zacchaeus had been saved from sin.
11. What does Jesus call God's children to do?  
Repent – to confess their sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus.

Repentance starts in our heart and comes out in our actions. Continue to use the motions that you made up to the definition of repentance – use them whenever you use the word “repent” or “repentance.”

12. When we are following sin, what do we believe is the most valuable and best thing?  
Anyone or anything other than God. It could be ourselves, things we really want, or what other people think about us. We want these things more than we want God.
13. When we turn away from sin to follow Jesus what do we believe is the most valuable and best thing?  
We believe that Jesus is the most valuable and best thing.



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God's kindness leads sinners to repent – to turn away from sin and follow Jesus – just like Zaccheaus. Explain that when a sinner repents and begins to follow Jesus, they are adopted as a child of God. They are saved from the punishment for sin and have the promise of life forever with God.

14. Does a child of God need to ask for salvation over and over again if/when they still struggle with sin?

No, a child of God has salvation that cannot be lost or taken away. They do not need to ask for salvation over and over again.

15. Does a child of God need to repent when they are doing something sinful?

Yes, a child of God still confesses their sin and asks for forgiveness.

**\*\*Additional passages for family study:** Luke 15:7; 2 Peter 3:9.

**Capture discipleship moments:** Recap by asking your kids what they learned.

1. What did we learn about God today?

God is kind to sinners and calls them to repent.

2. What did we learn about ourselves today?

I need to confess my sin and turn away from it to follow Jesus.

**Pray together as a family.** Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Assign someone to pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

## **This Month's Memory Verse**

*But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Luke 6:27-28*