



SESSION 3

Bible Story

Jesus Walks with
Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10

Rapid Reminder

Find Joy on the River!

Rafting Ready Verse

“When you pass through
the waters, I will be with
you.” Isaiah 43:2

Materials

River Fun

- △ Tree Template (page 80 or the Free Resources at CokesburyVBS.com)
- △ sponges
- △ green washable paint
- △ bowls
- △ paint smocks
- △ marker

Wonder Station

- △ **Stay-Put Stickers** and **Craft Theme Stickers**
- △ stamp designs
- △ ink pads
- △ paint smocks
- △ small paper bags
- △ construction paper

Bible Station

- △ a basket
- △ colorful tissue paper
- △ various fruits, snacks, and vegetables



Bible Beginnings

River Fun

Tree Time

Before Rafters arrive, cut sponges into small sections, and make copies of the Tree Template (see sidebar).

Pour a small amount of green paint into bowls. Assist Rafters to put on paint smocks. Show Rafters how to dip sponges into the paint, then paint over the tree pattern. As they work, repeat the Rafting Ready Verse with Rafters several times.

When they are done painting, write Rafters' names on their pictures. Set aside to dry.

Wonder Station

Creative Caring & Sharing

Invite Rafters to use stamps, ink pads, and stickers to create pictures or decorate gift bags. Rafters love creating cards and gifts for others! Remind them of their Rapid Reminder and their Bible lesson. Talk about ways making and sharing cards brings joy to others.

Rafter Manipulatives

During each session, select one or two of these items as options for Rafters to use:

- ▲ wooden or foam puzzles
- ▲ large floor puzzles
- ▲ lacing cards
- ▲ plastic interlocking blocks
- ▲ matching card activities

Bible Station

Basket of Joy

Gather a basket, colorful tissue paper, variety of fruit, vegetables and snacks. Invite Rafters to create a food basket to share. Rafters can use the colorful tissue papers in between the food items. Arrange for Rafters to present their basket to a staff member to take to someone who needs encouragement.

Talk to the Rafters about how they are bringing joy to others by sharing this basket of food. Tell them they will be learning a Bible story about how Jesus brought joy to a man.



Gathering Time with Romper

Have stage set with props scattered about conspicuously.

Paddle Captain: Welcome back, Rafters! Hmm. *[If there are new Rafters in your group, be sure to introduce them.]* I wonder why all of these things were left here. Let's see if Romper knows! On the count of three, let's say *Welcome, Romper!* 1...2...3... Welcome, Romper!

Romper: Here I am! Ready for a great time at Rolling River Rampage. Just finishing up another tour group.

Paddle Captain: Well, we realize you are the number one tour guide in these parts, so we are always thankful for our time with you. We are a bit curious, though: Do you know why all these items are here?

Romper: Oh, those are some things that bring me joy! I heard we were going to be talking with the Rafters about joy today.

Paddle Captain: Right you are, and how thoughtful! Our new Rapid Reminder is "Find Joy on the River."

Romper: Rafters let's say that together: Find Joy on the River!

Paddle Captain: So tell us about what brings you joy, Romper.

Romper: There are a lot of ways that I find joy—sliding and swimming on the River gives me joy. Joy is when you are very happy, and I am happy and joyful when I am swimming and sliding on the River.

Paddle Captain: Our Bible story is about a man who was full of joy because Jesus talked to him and loved him. Jesus loves all of us, and that makes me joyful!

Romper: I "otter" tell you, seeing these Rafters having such a great time here at Rolling River Rampage brings me joy too!

Paddle Captain: And I "otter" tell you, I was thinking the same thing!

Romper: Hey, Paddle Captain, before I have to lead another tour guide, let's have our Rafters repeat our Rafting Ready Verse. Would you please lead them?

Paddle Captain: Happy to do just that! "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Say it with me. *[with Rafters]* "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

Romper: Hey, Rafters. Hope you Find Joy on the River. See you 'round!



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Materials

- △ Romper the River Otter Puppet
- △ books
- △ toy
- △ map

Teacher Tip

Consider having Romper and the Paddle Captain lead the Rafters in a round of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" during each Gathering Time!



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Materials

Music Fun

- △ **Complete Music CD** or mp3 track of the VBS song, "**Zacchaeus (Wee Little Man)**"
- △ music player

Rhythm Activity

- △ various sizes of pots and pans
- △ wooden spoons
- △ **Complete Music CD** or mp3 tracks
- △ music player

Music Time

Preparation

- ▲ Select the songs and activities that will best meet your group's setting, needs, and time span.
- ▲ Gather supplies for Music Time.

Suggested Songs

- ▲ "Life with You"
- ▲ "Zacchaeus (Wee Little Man)"

Music Fun

Zacchaeus (Wee Little Man)

Teach the song, "Zacchaeus (Wee Little Man)" and its motions. If time allows, sing it together several times.

Rhythm Activity

Kitchen Music

Invite each Rafters to select a pot and spoon. Ask the Rafters to play these kitchen instruments as you play VBS songs. Experiment with dynamics by playing loudly and softly in different parts. Talk about how music brings joy in our lives, and how they will be learning a Bible story about how Jesus brought joy to Zacchaeus.

♥ Mission: Ripples of Kindness

Mission Moments at Rolling River Rampage feature hands-on projects that encourage Rafters to make the world a better place by creating Ripples of Kindness. See the **Mission Leader** guide for more details and to select the options that will best fit the needs of your church.



Experience the Bible Story

Transition

Invite Rafters to prepare for the Bible Story by singing our Preschool Song:

Beautiful Ride (Preschool Song)

©2016 Andrew Wilson

Verse 1

Your love's like a river that washes me clean.

Your grace floods my soul and I am redeemed.

Your love's so much longer than a limousine

And that's why I love you so much God.

Pre-chorus

**I was standing beside the river
And I was afraid to jump in
But your Word made the perfect inflatable
Since I didn't know how to swim.**

Chorus

**Now I'm floating this river with Jesus
Wherever it goes, I always know that
I'm floating this river with Jesus
And safe by his side, I can't deny
That this river's a beautiful ride.**

Verse 2

**You give me the faith to move mountains
And hope that begins with your love that won't end.
You're my living H2O fountain.
That's why I love you so much God.**

(Repeat Pre-chorus and Chorus)

Bible Story Poster

Show Rafters the Session 3 poster before and after the telling of the Bible story.

**Rafters, Rafters, what do you see?
I see _____, that's what I see.**

Get Ready!

Invite Rafters to gather around and make these sounds with you as you preview the Bible story.

- ▲ **Zacchaeus** (*buzzing sound: "zzz"*)
- ▲ **wee little man** (*"wheee!"*)
- ▲ **tree** (*sound like wind in the leaves: "whoosh"*)
- ▲ **Jesus** (*"hooray!"*)

Note: The words for the sounds you just practiced are underlined in the text below. As you read, over-emphasize these so the Rafters will know it's time to make noise.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man.
A wee little man was he.

He climbed up in a sycamore tree...
...so Jesus he could see.

Jesus came to the tree and stopped. He saw Zacchaeus up in that tree.

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. Let's go to your house!"

What happened next? Let's find out together!



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Materials

Bible Story Poster
▲ Bible Story Poster Pak

Get Ready!

▲ **Complete Music CD** or mp3 track of the VBS song, "**Beautiful Ride**"
▲ music player



Bible Story

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Materials

▲ Bible

Teacher Tip

See also pages 372-
375 of the **Deep Blue
Bible Storybook** for
an additional age-
appropriate way to tell
this Bible story!

Tell the Bible Story

Open the Bible to Luke 19:1-10 and point out to the Rafters where to find the Bible story. Invite them to do these motions with you as you tell the story.

Walk. Walk. Walk. Jesus walked to the town of Jericho. *(Walk in place.)*

A short man named Zacchaeus lived there. *(Hold your hand out low at your side to indicate Zacchaeus' shortness.)*

Money. Money. Money. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which meant he took money from people to pay taxes. Sometimes Zacchaeus took more money than the people really owed. He kept the extra money for himself. *(Rub your fingers together.)*

Look. Look. Look. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. He was so short that he couldn't see over the heads of the people in the crowd. *(Stand on your tiptoes and invite the Rafters to join you.)*

Climb. Climb. Climb. Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to look for Jesus. *(Pretend to climb a tree, and encourage the Rafters to join you.)*

Walk. Walk. Walk. Jesus walked by the tree. Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus. He said, “Zacchaeus, come down, I must go to your house today.” *(Motion to come down.)*

Why? Why? Why? Zacchaeus climbed down the tree. Zacchaeus was happy to welcome Jesus to his house. *(Pretend to shake Jesus' hand.)* People asked, “Why is Jesus going to Zacchaeus' house? Zacchaeus is not a good man!” *(Shake your head, “No.”)*

Joy. Joy. Joy. Zacchaeus was full of joy because Jesus was coming to his house. Zacchaeus said, “Jesus, I will give half of what I own to the poor, and I all I have cheated.” *(Pantomime handing coins out to others around you.)* Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Let's be full of joy because today you know what it means to be my follower!”

Everyone sing, “I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart.”

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart

Down in my heart, down in my heart.

I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay!

Think about it...

▲ Why do you think Zacchaeus was so full of joy?

▲ What do you like to do when you are full of joy?



Respond to the Bible Story

Response Prayer

Dear God,

Zacchaeus was full of joy when he met Jesus and followed him. Let our hearts be happy and full of joy because Jesus is our friend, too.

Amen.

Response Activity

Joyful Foods

Zacchaeus was joyful during his time with Jesus. We are going to act out some joyful foods!

Here are some suggested motions:

- ▲ Pretzel: Sit cross-legged.
- ▲ Popcorn: Jump in place.
- ▲ Water: Pour a cup of water.
- ▲ Hot Dog: Add toppings.
- ▲ Lemonade: Pretend to stir.
- ▲ Bread & Butter: Pretend to spread butter on bread.

Rafting Ready Verse

Open the Bible to Isaiah 43:2.

Our Rafting Ready Verse at Rolling River Rampage is Isaiah 43:2, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." In this verse the I means God and that God is with us.

Let's imagine we've been in the raft a long time and we're starting to feel a little homesick. Repeat after me. (*sad*) "When you pass through the waters..."

[Rafters repeat]

"...I will be with you."

[Rafters repeat]

Now let's imagine we've just made it through some rapids, even seen some wildlife, and now we're feeling joyful about the great adventure we're having.

Repeat after me. (*joyfully*) "When you pass through the waters..."

[Rafters repeat]

"...I will be with you."

[Rafters repeat]

Well done, Rafters!



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Teacher Tip Rafting Ready Verse

For another active learning option, teach your Rafters the Sign Language! Instructions and demonstrations are available on the **Adventure Video DVD** and in the **Bible Storyteller** book.



Reflection Time

Journaling

Student Books & Fun Pages

Assist Rafters as needed in completing the Session 3 activities on pages 8-10 of their Student books and/or copies of pages 14-19 from the Fun Pages.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for showing us that Jesus loves us just like Jesus loved Zacchaeus. We are full of joy because no matter who we are, whether we are big or small, we know that Jesus loves us.

Amen.

Reflection Activity

Jump the River

Lay out jump ropes around the room.

1. Teach kids how to jump properly (off both feet at the same time and landing on both feet).
2. Tell the Rafters they will be walking around the room and will need to “jump the river” using the form you just taught them each time they come to a jump rope; practice as needed before you begin.
3. Have them form a single-file line. Play music and praise each of their efforts as they go!

Tell Rafters how glad you are that they came to Rolling River Rampage, and invite them to come back again for another adventure!



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Materials

Journaling

△ **Preschool/**

Kindergarten Student
books (1 per Rafter)

△ **Younger Rafter**

Reproducible Fun
Pages book

Reflection Activity

△ 3-5 jump ropes

△ **Complete Music CD** or
mp3 track of the VBS
song, “Life with You”

△ music player