

A Little Man With a Big Heart

Luke 19:1-10; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 552-556

Have you ever been to a parade or ball game and not been able to see very well? Maybe your father carried you on his shoulders. If so, you will understand how Zacchaeus felt when he got stuck at the back of a crowd.

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. He had one of the biggest and best houses in town. He was a very rich man. But no one liked him because he cheated people and kept their money. Everyone knew about it, but no one could do anything. Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector for the Romans. The Romans didn't care what he did as long he gave them the right tax money. So Zacchaeus told people that their taxes had gone up. He collected more than he should, and he kept the extra money for himself.

One day Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho. He had heard a lot about

Jesus. He had heard how Jesus had healed the sick, the lame, and the blind. And some said that He had raised someone from the dead. All these things made Jesus special—and made Zacchaeus want to meet Him.

Zacchaeus had heard about the tax collector, Levi Matthew. Matthew had left everything to become one of Jesus' closest followers. People talked about it everywhere. Zacchaeus wondered, *Maybe Jesus has something to say to me.*

Yes, it was the talk of the town. Jesus was really coming to Jericho. Zacchaeus decided to try to catch a glimpse of the Master. He closed his office and went out into the street.

The street was so crowded and the crowds were getting thicker. It was hopeless. People just moved closer together when they saw Zacchaeus. He tried jumping up to see over their heads, but that was useless. He was so short, and no one would let him through.

But he was determined. He would not give up. He *must* see Jesus.

Zacchaeus looked up and down the street. He saw a big old tree. Climbing trees was not the sort of thing grown men did. But there was no other way he could see Jesus. So up he climbed. He sat on a big branch and looked down the road. Jesus was coming his way.

When Jesus reached the tree, He stopped and looked up. He saw Zacchaeus and smiled. Everyone in the crowd stopped



The Message

*I show others Jesus' love
when I put wrongs right.*

Memory Verse

*“Here and now I
give half of my
possessions to
the poor”*

(Luke 19:8, NIV).

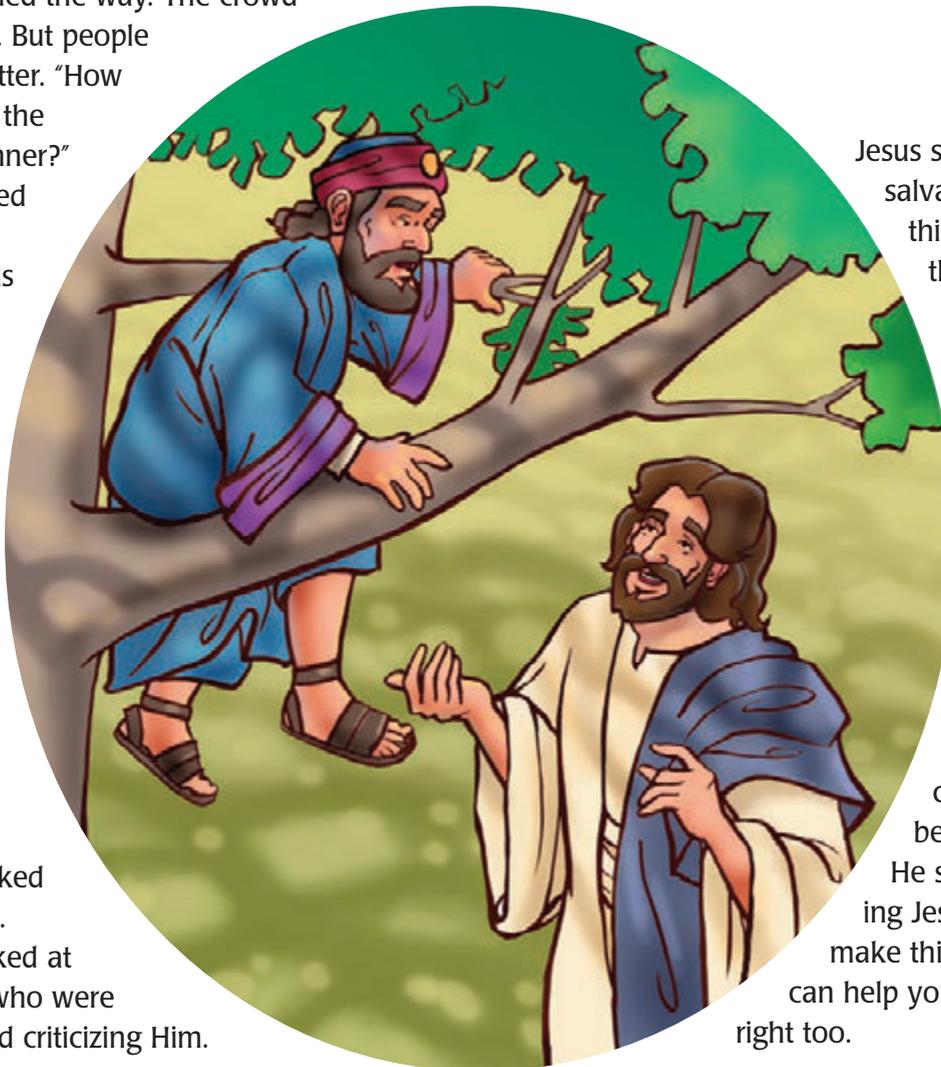
too. They looked up and saw Zacchaeus. Some laughed; others nudged their friends and pointed. Zacchaeus paid no attention. He was listening to Jesus.

“Zacchaeus, come down. I am going to your house today,” Jesus said so everyone could hear.

Zacchaeus could hardly believe his ears. Jesus going to his house? No one ever came to his house. He slithered down the tree and led the way. The crowd moved aside. But people began to mutter. “How can Jesus be the guest of a sinner?” they wondered out loud.

Zacchaeus stood up and said: “Lord! I will give half of everything I own to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will give them back four times as much.”

Jesus looked at Zacchaeus. Then He looked at the people who were muttering and criticizing Him.



Jesus said, “Today salvation has come to this house. This is the reason the Son of Man came—to seek and save the lost.”

Before Zacchaeus saw Jesus, he had begun to show that he was sorry for cheating people. Now, he confessed this before the crowd. He showed that loving Jesus helped him to make things right. Jesus can help you make things right too.



S A B B A T H

DO Go for a walk with your family. See if you can find a large tree like Zacchaeus might have climbed. What kinds of trees do you see? Begin a list and add to it all this week. Sing about Zacchaeus in the tree.

PRAY Thank God for trees.

M O N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 5:23, 24 during family worship. When should you put wrongs right?

DO With your family look at some coins or paper money. What symbols do you see? What do the symbols mean? Design a coin of your own.

PRAY Ask God to help you put wrongs right.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ At worship time read and discuss Luke 6:37, 38. How important is it to ask for forgiveness and to forgive? Review your memory verse.

DO Put a cup in the sink. Fill the cup until the water runs over. What does this tell us about our attitude to others? Read Luke 6:37, 38 again.

MAKE Use old cereal packages or something similar to make place mats for your family.

PRAY Thank God that He blesses us in so many different ways.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Luke 19:1-10. Think how happy Zacchaeus must have been. Ask if you can invite someone to your house.

MAKE Make a Bible-times purse by cutting a 15cm/6in circle of cloth. Punch holes about 1cm/1/2in from the edge and about 4cm/1.5in apart. Thread a string or thick piece of yarn through the holes and draw the purse together.

MAKE Cut out 13 circles to represent coins. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix up the coins and then try to put the words in the right order. Use this to teach the verse to your family. Save the coins in your cloth purse.

PRAY Thank God for supplying your needs.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 18:21, 22 with your family. What is Jesus trying to tell His followers? Should we keep track of how many times we forgive someone?

THINK How much is 70 times 7?

DO If you are able, climb a tree. How high do you think Zacchaeus climbed?

PRAY Thank God for a healthy body.

T H U R S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 7:12 during worship today. What would you like someone else to do for you?

DRAW Draw faces of people in the story of Zacchaeus. Think of their surprise at seeing him in the tree. Think how they muttered when Jesus visited Zacchaeus. How did they act when they heard that Zacchaeus would give half of his money to the poor?

DO Zacchaeus was short. Ask someone to measure you. Measure two other people in your home. Who is shortest?

PRAY Ask God to help you to see what others need. How can you help the poor?

F R I D A Y

READ With your family, review Luke 19:1-10 and act out the story. Sing "Zacchaeus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 63) and say your memory verse together.

PRAY Thank God for Bible stories and for another Sabbath.

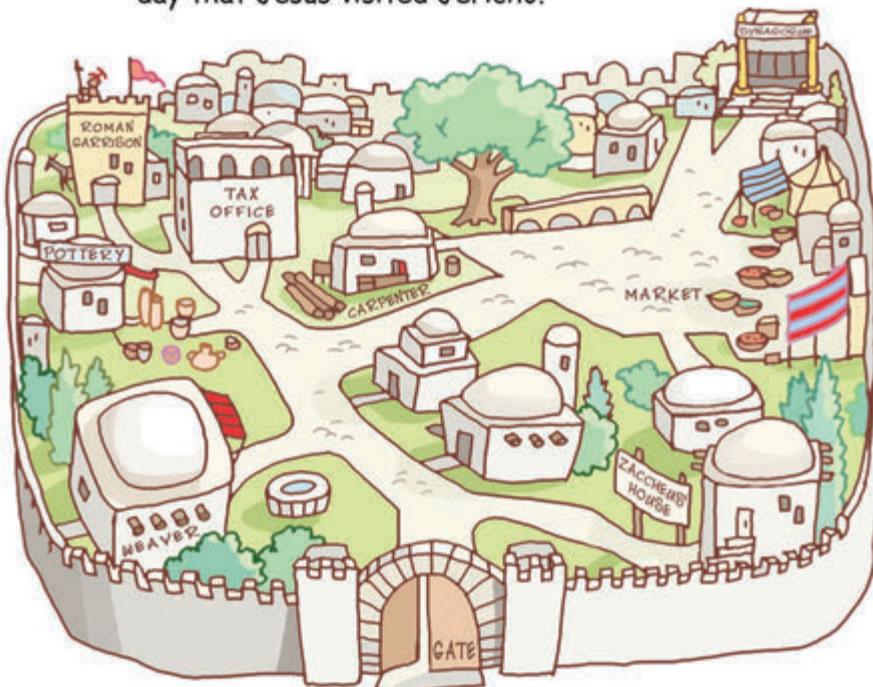
When Zacchaeus went into the crowd, he was asking for trouble. People knew and hated him.



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PUZZLE

Directions: Trace the path that Zacchaeus followed to get home the day that Jesus visited Jericho.



Community

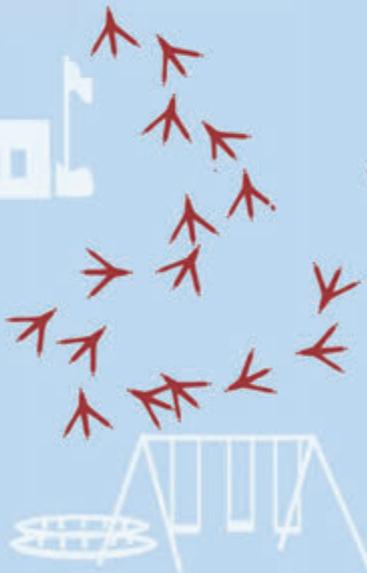
Jesus came to this earth to seek and save the lost. Jesus welcomes

to seek and save the lost. Jesus welcomes me into His family. ♥

Directions: Mockingbirds imitate the songs of other birds. If a Mockingbird could follow you and imitate you, how would that bird act as you go to school and play with your friends? Let's name our pretend bird "Beaky" and follow Beaky through your neighborhood. At each step, unscramble a word or circle the behavior that best reflects Jesus' love.

A girl has braces on her teeth and her hair is messy. Which would you do?

1. Invite her to play with you.
2. Laugh at her.



An old person is trying to get into the restroom. Which would you do?

1. Hold the door for the old person.
2. Push in front of the old person.



A boy falls off a swing. Which would you do?

1. Help him clean up his scratches and find a bandage for his scraped knee.
2. Tell him he is clumsy and to stay off the swings.

Jesus is my friend. Jesus came to this earth

me into His family. **Jesus is my friend.** Jesus came to this earth to seek and

You find a tool that belongs to a neighbor. Which would you do?

1. Take it home because "finders can keep what they find even if they know who owns the lost item."
2. Return it to its owner.

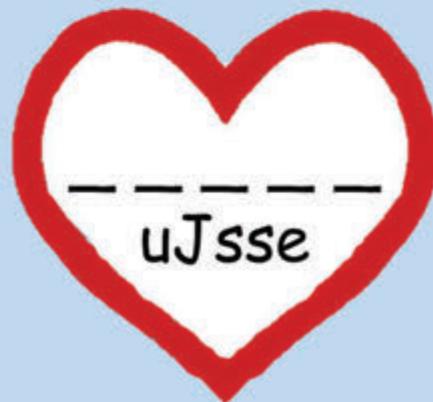


Mom has just gotten home and her back hurts. Which would you do?

1. Offer to carry in groceries.
2. Sneak off before she has the chance to ask for your help.



Who will you invite into your heart?



Your friend's little sister is always following you and your friend. Which would you do?

1. Walk slower so she can keep up with you.
2. Forget to "find" her when playing hide and seek.



friend. **Jesus came to this earth to seek and to save the lost.** Jesus welcom

to save the lost. Jesus welcomes me into His family. Jesus is my

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My Memory Verses

1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1, NIV).
2. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27, NIV).
3. "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy" (Genesis 2:3, NIV).
4. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NIV).
5. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6, NIV).
6. " 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground' " (Exodus 3:5, NIV).
7. "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:2, NIV).
8. "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them" (Psalm 34:7, NIV).
9. " 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink' " (John 7:37, NIV).
10. " 'Come, follow me, . . . and I will make you fishers of men' " (Matthew 4:19, NIV).
11. " 'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners' " (Matthew 9:13, NIV).
12. " 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these' " (Luke 18:16, NIV).
13. " 'Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor' " (Luke 19:8, NIV).



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