

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

• Add sound effects:

Provide a few small jars of coins for kids to shake whenever you say Zacchaeus's name.

• Use body motions:

Step up on a stool when you talk about Zacchaeus' climbing a tree. Hold your hand to your mouth when you say that Jesus called out to Zacchaeus. Put your hand on your hip when you talk about the crowd complaining.

Jesus was traveling through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. **Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, and he was very rich.** Zacchaeus was in charge of collecting taxes from the Jewish people in Jericho for the Roman government. Many Jews did not like tax collectors because they were often dishonest.

When Jesus came into town, a large crowd gathered to see Him. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus too, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed into a sycamore tree.

When Jesus came by, He looked into the tree and saw Zacchaeus.

"Come down, Zacchaeus," Jesus said. "I want to stay with you today."

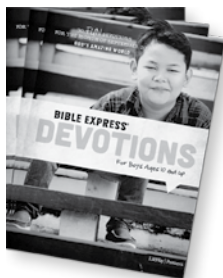
Zacchaeus was happy to welcome Jesus, and he hurried down from the tree. **But everyone who saw this complained.** "Zacchaeus is a sinner!" they said. "And Jesus is going to stay at his house!"

Later that day, Zacchaeus told Jesus, "I will give half of everything I have to the poor. And if I cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much."

Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Today you have been saved. You have shown that you are one of God's people."

Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save the lost." Jesus had come to look for people like Zacchaeus—people who did not know God—and to save them from their sin.

Christ Connection: Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came after us—sinners who do not deserve Him—and He rescues us from sin. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He is glad when we repent and trust in Him.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that people were angry that Jesus showed His love to Zacchaeus, a crook! The Bible says everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved. (Rom. 10:13) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



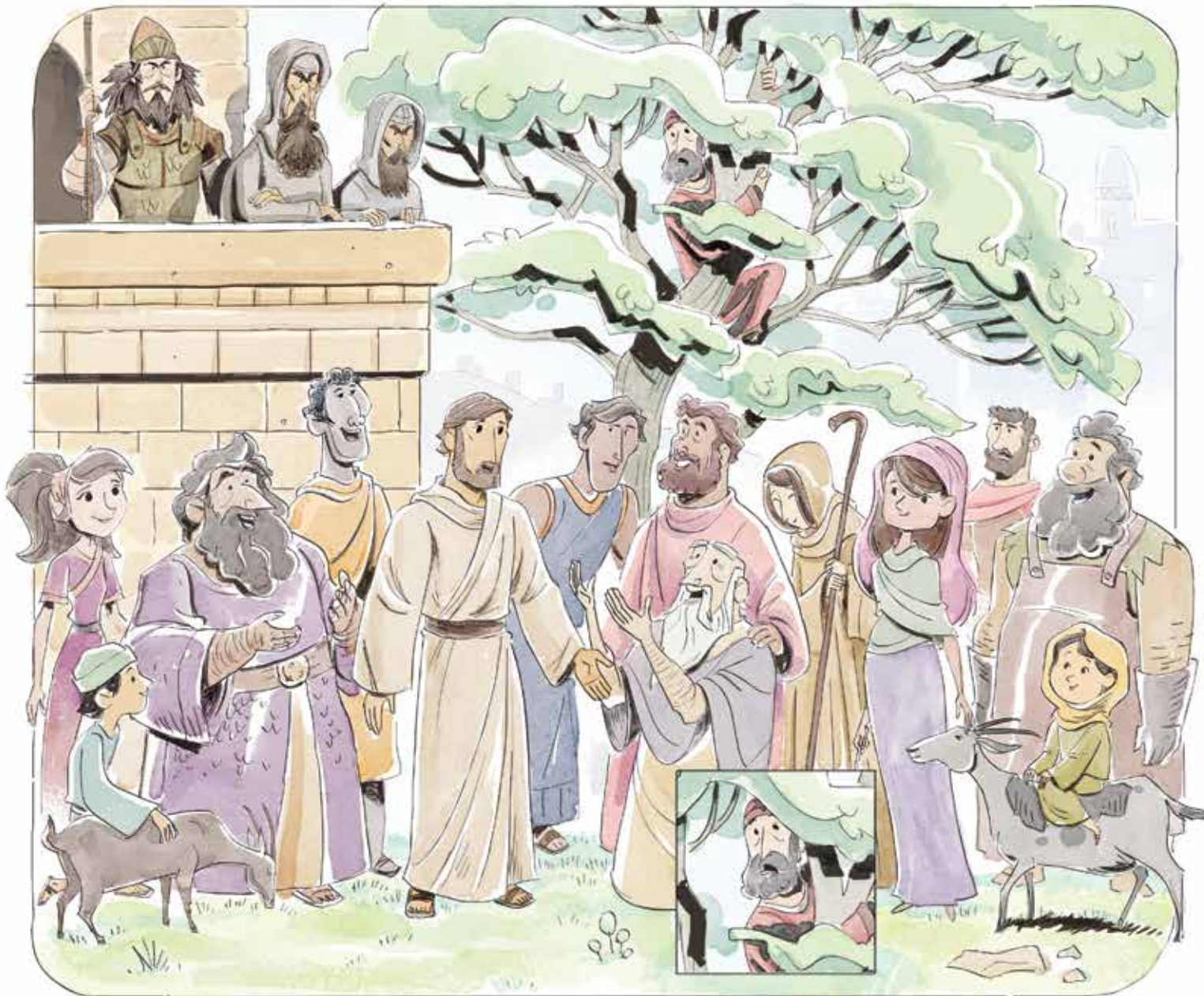
We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Where's Zacchaeus?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the key to find Zacchaeus in the picture. Circle Zacchaeus.



KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God's Son.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

- Jesus loved Zacchaeus.
- Zacchaeus told Jesus he wanted to start doing the right thing.
- Jesus said He came to find people who do not know God.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Do you think people usually wanted to go to Zacchaeus's house? Why or why not?
- Why did some people think Jesus should not go to Zacchaeus's house?
- Did Zacchaeus want to do the right thing to make Jesus love Him or because Jesus already loved Him?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Collect your family's loose change. Identify a way to use the money to show God's love to lost people.
- Invite someone outside your typical circle of friends over to your house for dinner. Show the love of Jesus to that person.

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 21, Session 5



Count the Coins

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Zacchaeus tricked people to take their money. Add up the value of the coins he took in the picture.



KEY PASSAGE: John 14:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

- Zacchaeus was a tax collector who stole money from the people.
- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus as He passed through the city.
- Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus forever.
- Jesus came to save sinners like Zacchaeus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why did the people grumble when Jesus stayed with Zacchaeus?
- How are we like Zacchaeus?
- How has Jesus changed our lives forever?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Start a coin collection with your family. Collect all the loose change in your home. See if any coins found are rare by searching the Internet for the kind of coin and the year it was minted. Talk to your kids about the value of trusting Jesus.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 21, Session 5



Changes Circle the 10 differences between the two pictures.

To Seek and Save

Fill in the missing vowels—A, E, I, O, and U—to finish the Christ connection.

J _ s _ s c _ m _ t _ s _ _ k
 _ nd s _ v _ th _ l _ st.
 H _ c _ m _ _ ft _ r
 _ s _ s _ nn _ rs wh _ d _
 n _ t d _ s _ rv _ H _ m _
 _ nd H _ r _ sc _ _ s _ s
 fr _ m s _ n. J _ s _ s d _ _ d
 _ n th _ cr _ ss f _ r _ _ r
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