

Zacchaeus

For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost. Luke 19:1-10

Open with prayer:

Dear Jesus, you came to look for (kids make binoculars) **and save people and things that are lost. Whenever we look** (kids make binoculars) **for you, we know that we will find you because you are already looking** (kids make binoculars) **for us. Being with you changes us! Thank you for looking** (kids make binoculars) **for us. Amen.**

Sing: Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkd-QFD7vMA>

Opening the Bible:

Like the song we just sang, our story today is about a man named Zacchaeus. When Jesus came to his town, the crowd was so large, and Zacchaeus was so short, that he had to climb a tree to see Jesus. As I read the story, every time you hear Zacchaeus's name, pretend you're climbing a tree. Read the Bible story. Pause when you read the name "Zacchaeus" so the kids can pretend to climb a tree. **How did the people feel about Zacchaeus before he met Jesus? What changed in Zacchaeus after Jesus came to town? Why do you think Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus?**

Practice the verse several times: **For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost. Luke 19:10**

Talk About It:

- What is your favorite meal to make and share when you have a friend over?
- What would you make for dinner if Jesus came to your house?
- When you don't like a certain person, how do you deal with them?
- Brainstorm together all the different ways your family cares for others. Include big and little things, money given and time shared, random acts of kindness, and planned giving of yourselves and/or your resources. Is there another way you can care for others?

Transform Art: Supplies Needed-Glue, markers, construction paper, recycled materials (toilet paper rolls, cans, plastic bottles, empty tissue boxes)

In this activity kids will see how things can change as they use recycled materials to create art. **When Jesus passed by Zacchaeus, Jesus saw him in the tree and called his name. After that, Zacchaeus was changed! Jesus knows your name too.** Have kids write their name on a piece of construction paper. Invite kids to use the materials to decorate the paper and change it into something special! **Wow! You changed all of those old, recycled materials into something really beautiful.**

Closing Conversations:

Zacchaeus changed a lot after he met Jesus. Before he met Jesus, no one in town liked him. But after he met Jesus, he changed so much that people told the story about him so that you could hear it today. Who can you tell the story of Zacchaeus to this week? Wait for kids to respond.

Closing Prayer:

Let's tell Jesus thank you for how he changes us. Invite kids to place their hands over their hearts as you pray.

Dear Jesus, you love each and every one of us just the way we are. But when we are with you, we are changed! Thank you for helping us become like you. We want to be loving and kind to everyone we meet. Amen.