

Zacchaeus

Items needed: A tree, preferably outside.

Bible truth: God rewards those who look for him.

Bible verses: Luke 19:3- *He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.*

1. Teach: A tax collector in Jesus' time was not a popular guy. The tax collector worked for the rulers of the land and made people pay their taxes, plus a little extra for themselves. Most people hated the tax collectors.

Read together Luke 19:1-10.

2. Do: Look at your tree. How hard would it be to climb that tree? What if climbing that tree was the only way that you could see Jesus? What are some ways that you might come up with to climb that tree? What is something else that might be hard to do, but you would do to be able to see Jesus?

3. Discuss: Zacchaeus was a popular guy right? Everyone loved him, right? Have you ever felt like everyone was against you? Zacchaeus was a little guy. He couldn't see Jesus? Have you ever felt like you were too little to do something? Zacchaeus had to climb a tree so he could see Jesus.

The minute that Zacchaeus meets Jesus, Zacchaeus tells Jesus that he is going to change his life. Zacchaeus is going to give away half of everything he owns to the poor and he is going to refund everyone he robbed four times what he took from them. If Zacchaeus took a quarter from someone he is going to give them FOUR quarters back. Just meeting Jesus for a minute changed Zacchaeus' life.

But the story does not stop there. Jesus not only goes to Zacchaeus' house, but he gives Zacchaeus a blessing. Matthew 7:7 & 8 says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Zacchaeus went out of his way to seek Jesus and it changed his life. What will you do to meet Jesus? Where do we find Jesus now?

By Jenni Langston
Memorial Church of Christ
Houston, Texas