

August 19, 2018

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Jesus and Zacchaeus*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, our children will learn about the wee little man named Zacchaeus. This story, while short, possesses so much richness about the Gospel and what it does to sinners. Zacchaeus proves that with God all things are possible (read Luke 18:18-30) and certainly a rich man can come into God's kingdom. However, to do so will mean drastic changes to the heart and to the ways in which that heart manifests itself (i.e., social implications). Only God can change the hearts of men, and with Zacchaeus He does just that. This story shows us the lengths at which we, and others, may go just to have our curiosity satisfied by Jesus. But Jesus isn't interested in satisfying curiosities. No, Jesus wants to be with us and us to be with Him. His invitation to Zacchaeus proves that and more. Jesus' presence is transforming for not only Zacchaeus but his whole house. The last thing to note is Jesus' mission encapsulated at the end: "He seeks and saves the lost." It is crucial to emphasize this about why Jesus came – to rescue Zacchaeus, to rescue us, and bring us back to God.

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Story: The Beginner's Bible, Pages 444-449; Gospel Story Bible, Pages 214-215; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 264-271.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: Zacchaeus in the tree

Supplies: Cardstock tree, Zacchaeus figure, yarn, tape, crayons/markers

- Instructions:**
1. Color Zacchaeus
 2. Tape yarn to back of Zacchaeus
 3. Thread opposite end of yarn through hole in tree
 4. Tie a knot in yarn so it doesn't fall back through hole



Relay of the Day: See below

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Craft: Zacchaeus

Supplies: Cardstock, Zacchaeus figure, leaves, glue, crayons/markers

- Instructions:**
1. Trace child's hand and arm to create tree
 2. Color tree and Zacchaeus
 3. Glue Zacchaeus and leaves to tree



Relay of the Day: Zacchaeus, Come on Down

Begin by dividing the children into two teams. Place two teachers beside a chair on the other side of the room. Each student will take a turn running across the room and being helped to stand up on the chair by their teacher. Teachers be sure to hold their hand as they "climb the tree". They will look around the room as if looking for Jesus. Their team will then say, "Zacchaeus come on down! I'm coming to your house today!". Help the student down and let them run back to tag the next person in line. The first team to have everyone take a turn wins.

Story: *Jesus and Zacchaeus*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, have you ever climbed a tree before? [Allow for answers] How tall was it? [Allow for answers] In our story today, a man climbs a tree to see Jesus but let's find out why he had to climb the tree!
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus continued travelling and teaching. Jesus was near the city of Jericho.
- A man of wealth, a tax collector, named Zacchaeus lived near Jericho and wanted to see Jesus. Tax collectors were despised in Jesus' day. Known to take more money than needed or necessary as they collected taxes, tax collectors were crooks and cheats. Tax collectors were identified as sinners and those considered "righteous people" and others had no relationship or dealings with tax collectors.
- Zacchaeus' stature prevented him seeing above the crowd, so he devises a plan to see Jesus. The plan is driven perhaps by curiosity but with it comes great embarrassment. Zacchaeus runs, which men did not do in that day and age, and then climbs a tree. Men of wealth and importance during this time did not climb trees.
- Once Jesus gets to the sycamore tree Zacchaeus has climbed, He calls him down. This would be embarrassing for Zacchaeus as the whole crowd would have seen him come down.
- Jesus declares he will go to Zacchaeus' home to be with him. People in the crowd cannot believe that Jesus would be with Zacchaeus, a tax collector.
- Zacchaeus declares he will give away half his money to the poor, and if he has cheated anyone out of money, which is almost likely for every case, he would quadruple the amount and return it.
- Jesus declares Zacchaeus to be part of God's family and that salvation is for he and his family.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, have you ever climbed a tree before? [Allow for answers] How tall was it? [Allow for answers] In our story today, a man climbs a tree to see Jesus but let's find out why he had to climb the tree!

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a rich and very important tax collector.

Tax collectors were people who went around collecting money from everyone. This money was used to build roads or pay for a big army. But what tax collectors did, which was very wrong, was they collected more money than they were supposed to. They would take the extra money for themselves. Tax collectors were very rich people. Tax collectors were cheats and crooks!

Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd around Jesus. So, Zacchaeus had an idea! He ran ahead of Jesus to a place in the road where he knew Jesus would walk by. He found a sycamore tree by the road; this would be the perfect place to see Jesus he thought. So, Zacchaeus found a spot to put his foot and found a

tree limb to grab, and he started climbing up the tree. Pretty soon Zacchaeus was in the tree and could see Jesus coming down the road. Finally, Jesus was close to the tree, and when Jesus came near to it, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus. Jesus said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."

The Bible tells us Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was so excited to have Jesus in his house. Everyone around Jesus and Zacchaeus saw this and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!" Remember, Zacchaeus was a tax collector and no one in that day liked tax collectors. Tax collectors were crooks and cheats. They always took more money from people than they were supposed to! But something incredible happened to Zacchaeus. His heart was changed. The Bible tells us that only God can change us. How did Zacchaeus change?

The Bible says that Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!" Zacchaeus had been changed. He knew he had done something wrong, and probably for a very long time, and he knew he needed to make it right. God had changed Zacchaeus!

Jesus heard what Zacchaeus said. Jesus then said, "Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham." This meant that Zacchaeus was now part of God's family; he had been rescued! And then Jesus said something very important, and it's our memory verse for the month, "*The Son of Man (Jesus) came to find lost people and save them.*" Zacchaeus was lost. Being lost means you are separated from God. And Jesus wants everyone to be with God – Jesus comes to find people and bring them back to God!

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- What city was Jesus traveling near?
- Who was the man in our story that collected money?
- Why was he a crook and a cheat?
- How did Zacchaeus see Jesus?
- Why did Zacchaeus need to climb a sycamore tree?
- What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?
- What did Zacchaeus do with all the money he took from people?
- Who changed Zacchaeus?
- Who did Jesus come to find and bring back to God?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Catechism Questions (1-20)