

ZACCHAEUS

VBS Lesson Outline | Luke 19:1-10

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus sees us and loves us right where we are. Zacchaeus was a dishonest tax collector that everyone hated, but Jesus saw him in the tree and changed his life. Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

MEMORY VERSE

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

OPENING (5 minutes)

Ask: Have you ever been too short to see something? Maybe at a parade or a concert? Today we meet a very short man who climbed a tree just to see Jesus.

STORY TIME (10 minutes)

Tell the story from Luke 19:1-10. Key points: (1) Zacchaeus was a tax collector who cheated people out of their money. (2) Nobody liked him because he was dishonest and worked for Rome. (3) He heard Jesus was coming and wanted to see Him. (4) Zacchaeus was too short to see over the crowd, so he climbed a tree. (5) Jesus looked up, called him by name, and said, 'I'm coming to your house!' (6) The crowd was shocked that Jesus would visit a sinner. (7) Zacchaeus's life changed: he gave back what he stole and gave to the poor.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes)

Questions to ask: Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree? How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus differently than everyone else? What changed in Zacchaeus after meeting Jesus? How has meeting Jesus changed your life?

ACTIVITY TIME (15 minutes)

Option A: Zacchaeus in the Tree (see craft sheet). Option B: Coloring page. Option C: Memory verse practice with hand motions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for this story and what it teaches us. Help us to remember Jesus changes everything. In Jesus' name, Amen.