

This week we are learning about

Zacchaeus



READ IT

This week's Bible story is
Zacchaeus
from Luke 19:1-10.

When we meet Jesus, we are changed!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Taxes
- Zacchaeus
- Tree
- Jesus
- Dinner

Zacchaeus' neighbors despised him for being a part of Roman domination. As a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus had contracted for the right to collect revenues in the district. He did so unfairly and to his own advantage.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 400-405

Spark Bible pages 1158-1159

Family Prayer

Say this prayer around a tree.

Thank you, Jesus, for loving everyone. Help us to remember that your love is big and without exception. Help us to love in the same way. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What is your favorite meal to make and share when you have a friend over?
- 2 What would you make for dinner if Jesus came to your house?
- 3 When you don't like a certain person, how do you deal with them?
- 4 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?

Eye Spark

When you see a tree, think about what it would be like to sit in it and watch for Jesus.

Ear Spark

When you hear coins jingle, remember Zacchaeus' promise to give back more than he had collected from his neighbors.

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LIVE IT

For families to do together

Make dinner for Jesus! Invite some friends, choose a menu, share the work, decorate a wonderful table and then leave a seat for Jesus — an empty chair at your table to remind you that Jesus is always present whenever people gather together.

For younger kids

Go to a park near your house and climb as high as you safely can on the playground equipment. How far can you see? Do you think you are as high as Zacchaeus was in the tree?

For older kids

Go tree climbing! Take an adult and make sure you are safe, but try your hand at climbing up a tree. How far can you see? How high do you think Zacchaeus climbed up the tree?



Come Down, Zacchaeus!

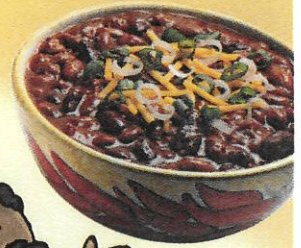
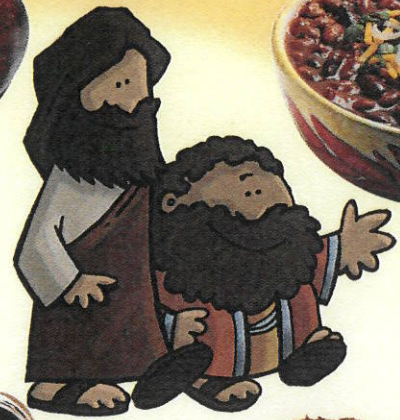
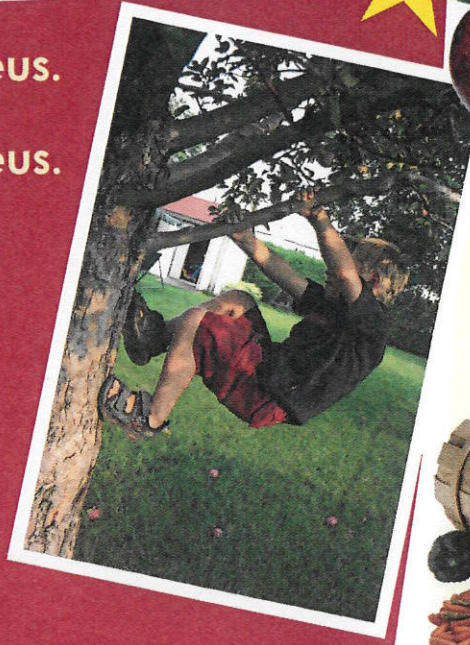
Jesus cared about Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus learned to care about others.

Dinner Menu

Jesus would eat dinner with anyone!
What's on the menu?



Come down, Zacchaeus.
Come down, Zacchaeus.
Come and play.
Come and play.
Halle, hallelujah
Halle, hallelujah,
I'm going to
Your house today.



FAITH on the GO!

Pretend to have dinner with Jesus. Fold your hands. Say a prayer. Eat some yummy food. Munch, munch, munch. Do you think Jesus eats vegetables?

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Zacchaeus



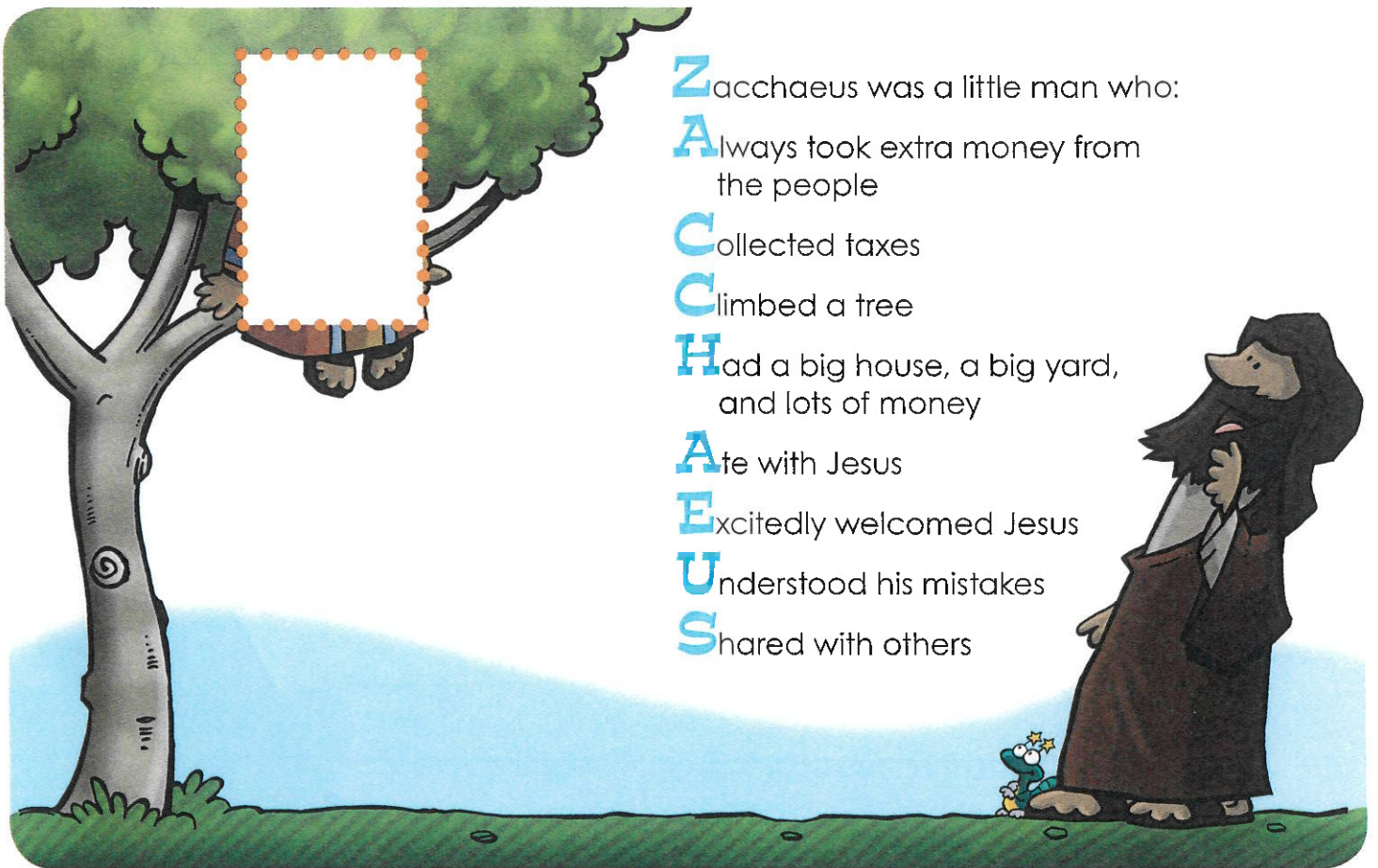
Luke 19:1-10

Name _____

Meeting Jesus changes our lives!

Meet Zacchaeus

You know, the name Zacchaeus is a tricky one to spell. Learn to tell his story, and you'll spell his name, as well!



Zacchaeus was a little man who:

Always took extra money from the people

Collected taxes

Climbed a tree

Had a big house, a big yard, and lots of money

Ate with Jesus

Excitedly welcomed Jesus

Understood his mistakes

Shared with others

Today's Bible story, **Zacchaeus**, is from the Gospel of **Luke**. Luke tells many stories about people who **changed** when they **met** Jesus.

The story of Zacchaeus is only found in the Gospel of Luke.

If Jesus Came to My Home

Zacchaeus was very happy to welcome Jesus to his home. These are some ways I would welcome Jesus to my home.

TO DO:

- Make a welcome sign
 - Clean my room
 - Set a fancy table
 - Serve Jesus tasty food
 - Set out flowers
 - Wear my best clothes
 - Play my favorite music
 - Read my favorite Bible story with him
 - Play my favorite game with him
 - Give him a great, big hug
 - My own idea: _____
- _____



TRY IT!

What Happened to Zacchaeus?

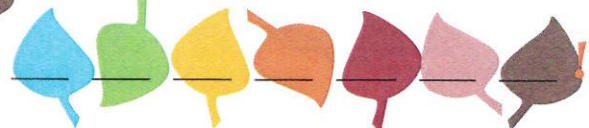
Before Zacchaeus met Jesus, nobody in Jericho liked him. Jesus told Zacchaeus, "God wants everyone to be part of God's family and care for others." After Zacchaeus met Jesus, he gave back the extra money. Zacchaeus cared about others and _____ forever!

Write these words to fill in the blank spaces:



- Zacchaeus _____ a tree to see Jesus.
- Zaccheaus lived in a town called _____.
- Zaccheaus collected _____.
- Jesus ate _____ with Zacchaeus.
- Zacchaeus _____ back the extra money.
- Zacchaeus was too short to _____ Jesus.
- Jesus told Zacchaeus about _____.

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his whole life _____



Faith on the Go!

Today's Bible story, **Zacchaeus**, is from the Gospel of

_____. Luke tells many stories about people who _____ when they _____ Jesus. The story of Zacchaeus is only found in the Gospel of Luke.

Tax Facts in the Bible

In many countries, adults pay a certain amount of money to their government every year. This money is called their **tax**.

The people who lived in Jericho gave their tax money to Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus always took extra money from the people and kept it for himself. Lots of tax collectors did this. Zacchaeus sent the rest of the money far away to the government in Rome.

During **Old Testament** times, Jewish people paid "half a shekel" in taxes. A **shekel** was a small piece of silver. Shekels went to the Jewish temple as an offering to God.

During **New Testament** times, taxes had gone up a LOT! Jewish people had to pay special taxes for cloth, furniture, land, and even travelling.

Boys over 14 years old had to pay taxes to the Roman government. **Women** didn't have to pay taxes until they were over 20 years old. Very **old people** did not have to pay taxes.



Meeting **Jesus** changes our lives!

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

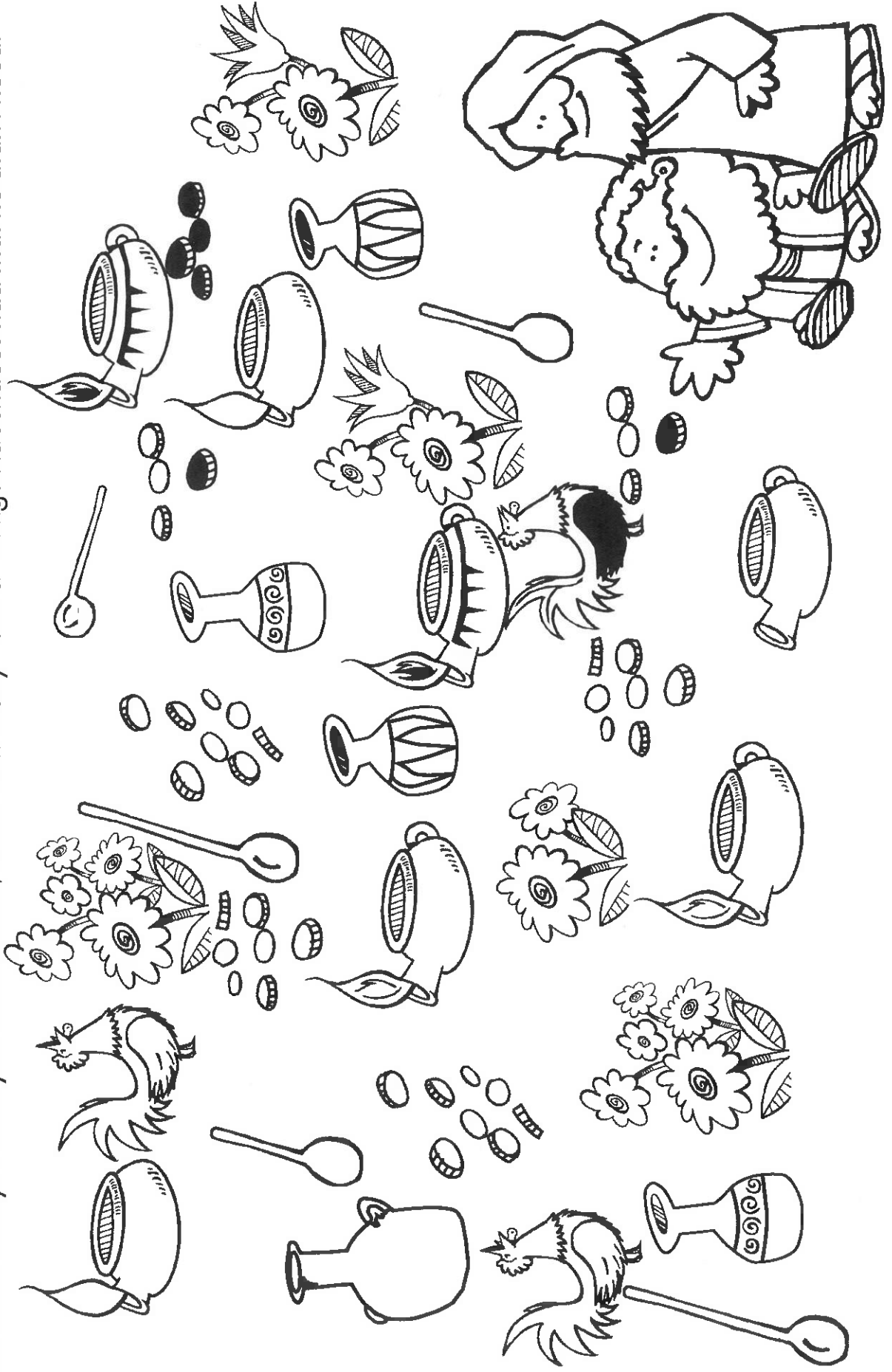
I want to:

- Tell you about Zacchaeus
- Climb a tree
- Invite a guest to dinner
- Give money to those who need it
- Share a toy with someone

- Draw a picture of tiny Zacchaeus
- Invite you to church
- Give you a big hug
- Say "I'm sorry"
- Pray for you
- My own idea: _____

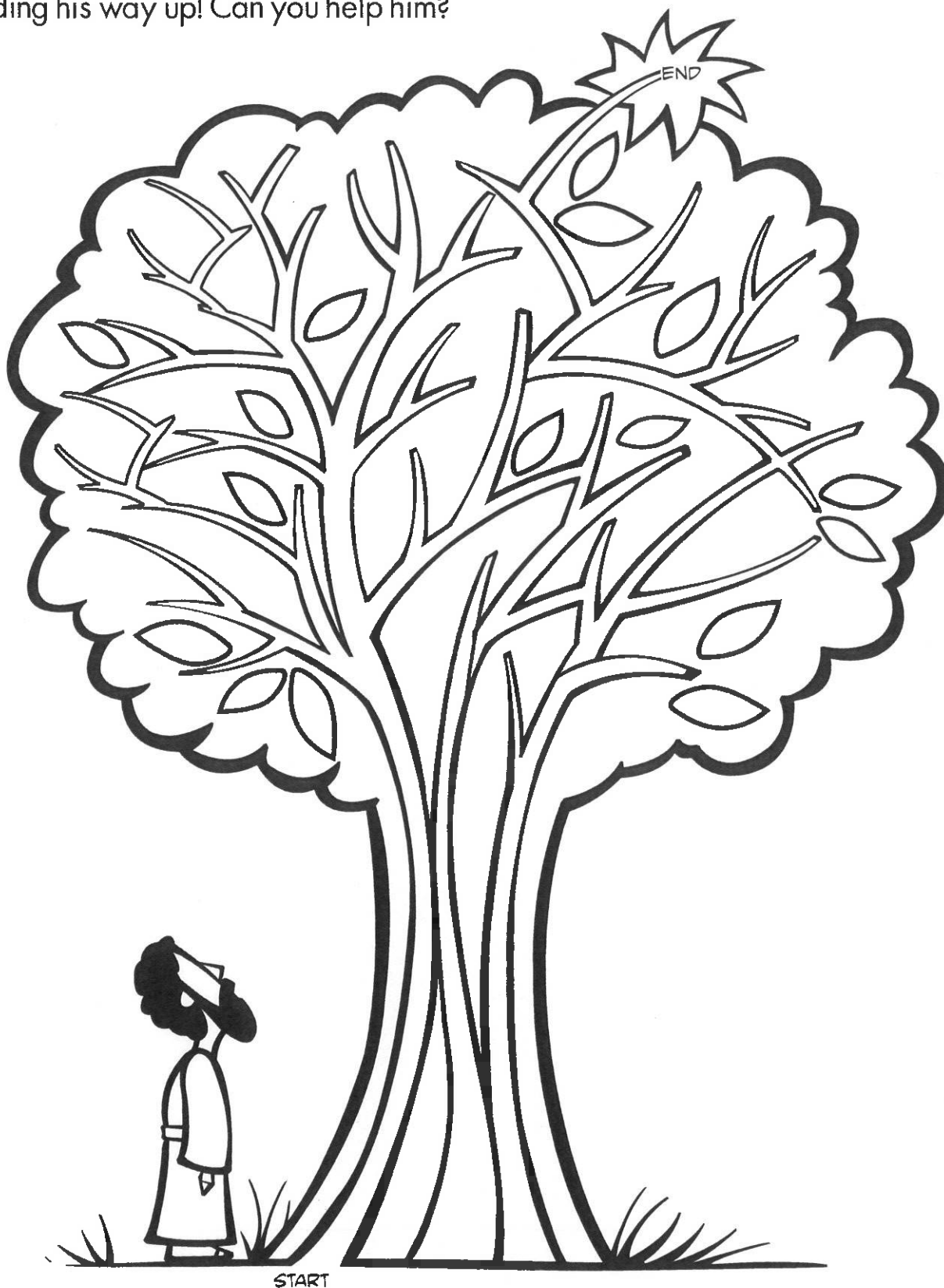
The Big Z Giveaway

Jesus wants Zacchaeus to share his stuff! Can you help? Circle any things that Zacchaeus has two of. He can give those away! When you are finished, count how many "extra" things Zacchaeus had that he didn't need!



Careful Climbing

Zacchaeus is trying to climb the tree to see Jesus, but is having trouble finding his way up! Can you help him?

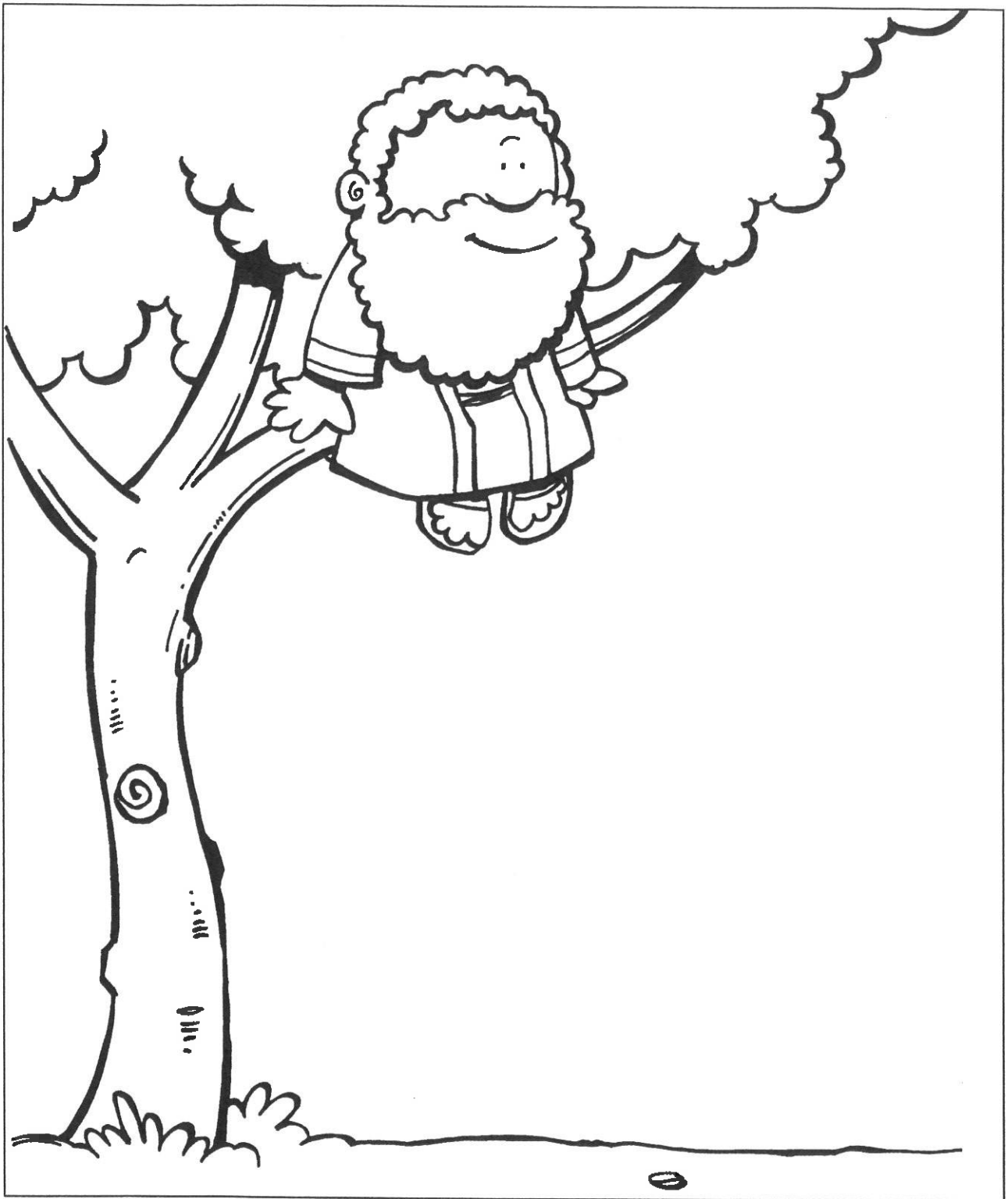


Zacchaeus



“This way, Jesus,” said Zacchaeus. “This is the way to my house.”

Zacchaeus



Zacchaeus climbed the tree. Now he could see everything.

Zacchaeus



Luke 19:1-10

Jesus loves us before we are perfect.

I wonder...

- If Zacchaeus ever cheated people again.
- What people thought about Zacchaeus after he paid them back.
- If Zacchaeus told people why he was paying them back.

Changing Your Tune

Mason Fowler was one of the smartest kids in the fifth grade. But he also did some of the stupidest things.

"Put away your calculators," said Ms. Foss. "It's time to go to Mr. B's music class."

"I wonder if Mason Fowler is gonna be there again," whispered Chelsea to her seat partners.

"Make sure he doesn't take away your lunch money," said Gavin.

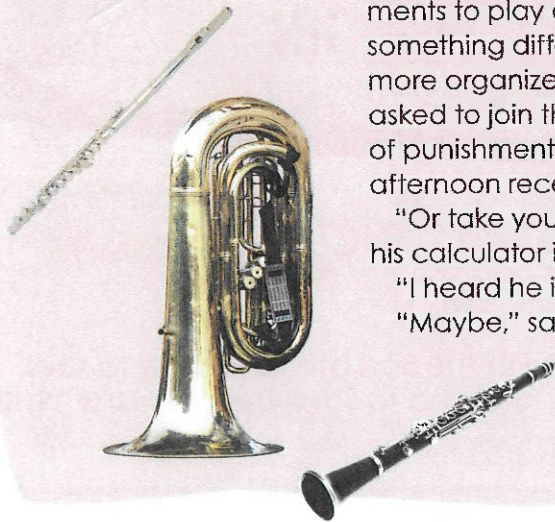
Two months ago Mason Fowler was caught stealing instruments from the music room and trying to sell them online. Principal Harper chewed him out, but she didn't expel him. Instead, she put him to work for a whole month of lunch and recess time in the music room helping Mr. B.

All the kids joked that there might not be any instruments to play anymore if Mason steals them all. But something different happened. The music room was more organized than anyone had ever seen it. Mason asked to join the fifth grade band. And after his month of punishment was up, he kept helping Mr. B during afternoon recess.

"Or take your backpack to sell it," Will said, shoving his calculator in the desk.

"I heard he is a lot nicer now," said Ellie.

"Maybe," said Chelsea. "But I still wouldn't trust him."




A Zacchaeus Rebus

Each picture puzzle shows a word from the story of Zacchaeus. Write the answer below each puzzle. You can reread today's Bible passage for clues.

F +  + GIVE +  - T

ZA +  +  - B

H +  - M

T +  +  - D + LECTOR

 - AIN +  - KN



Look it Up!

Find the city of **Jericho** on the map on page M16 of your Spark Bible.



Memory Verse

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

Fun Facts

The name **Zacchaeus** means *pure*.

Because Zacchaeus was the **chief** tax collector, it meant he was the head of other tax collectors.

Tax collectors were among the most hated people in **Israel**.

Tax collectors were **very rich**.

People were **shorter** in Bible times. An average adult male was about 5'6" [1.67 m] tall.

Zacchaeus is only mentioned in Luke's Gospel.

Tree-mendous Story

Cut out each rectangle and punch holes in each dot. Draw a picture on each one to illustrate the caption. Stack them in order. Put a rubber band along the back, poke the ends through, and place a stick through each end.



Jesus passing through Jericho.

Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector.

Zacchaeus climbed into a tree to see Jesus.

Jesus saw Zacchaeus and said, "Hurry and come down."

Everyone who saw this began to grumble.

Zacchaeus told Jesus what he would do.

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house."



**Faith
on the Go!**

Apologize to someone who you have wronged.

Tell someone who has wronged you that you forgive him or her.
As a way to **thank** God for forgiveness, donate money to an agency that helps people in need.

Ask your pastor what it feels like to announce the forgiveness of Jesus at worship.

Confession at worship usually includes a time of silence. The silent time is when we **tell** God about our specific sins. Make a mental list of things to pray about the next time you worship.

chair for the volunteer to stand on when Zacchaeus climbs the tree. Read the story, pausing for Zacchaeus's actions. When you're done reading, thank the volunteer.

Why didn't anybody like Zacchaeus? (*He was a tax collector, he was working for the Roman government, he was rich, etc.*) **Tax collectors often cheated people by taking more money than was required. Did Jesus say, "Zacchaeus, stop being mean so I can come to your house?" Look at verse 5 for your answer.** (*no*) Ask a volunteer to read verse 5. Listen as the verse is read. **Jesus wanted to go to his house even though he was a rotten guy.**

Ask a volunteer to read verse 7. **What did people think about what Jesus did?** (*They were angry.*) **When did Zacchaeus promise to pay back everybody whom he had cheated? Was it before or after Jesus went to his house?** (*after*) **Jesus loved and looked for Zacchaeus while he was still a tax collector! Jesus loves us before we are perfect.**

Invite kids to put I Read It stickers next to the passage. Hand out leaflets. Read and discuss the I Wonder statements found on the first page.

Changing Your Tune

There are often people around us who have done things that make it hard to trust or like them. Let's read a similar story set in modern times about a boy the other kids didn't trust. Ask a volunteer to read Changing Your Tune on the first page of the leaflet.

After listening to the story, use the following questions to guide discussion about it. **How did the kids feel about Mason Fowler?** (*afraid, they didn't trust him, nervous*) **What made them feel like that?** (*He stole band instruments.*) **How is Mason like Zacchaeus?** (*He changed.*) **Why should the kids think they can trust Mason now?** (*He organized the band room, he kept giving up his recess to help, he wanted to join the band, etc.*) **Why do you think Chelsea still doesn't trust Mason?** Answers will vary.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

A Zacchaeus Rebus

Decide if kids will work in pairs or alone. Instruct them accordingly. **Let's all turn to A Zacchaeus Rebus on the second page of the leaflet. Each of these picture puzzles depicts a word from the story of Zacchaeus. Write the answer below each puzzle. You can try it without your Bible or you can reread today's Bible story for help.**

Offer help to anyone who needs it. When all have completed the puzzle, discuss each answer by asking kids what role each answer played in the story.

Answer Key

1. FORGIVENESS
2. ZACCHAEUS
3. HOUSE
4. TAX COLLECTOR
5. TREE

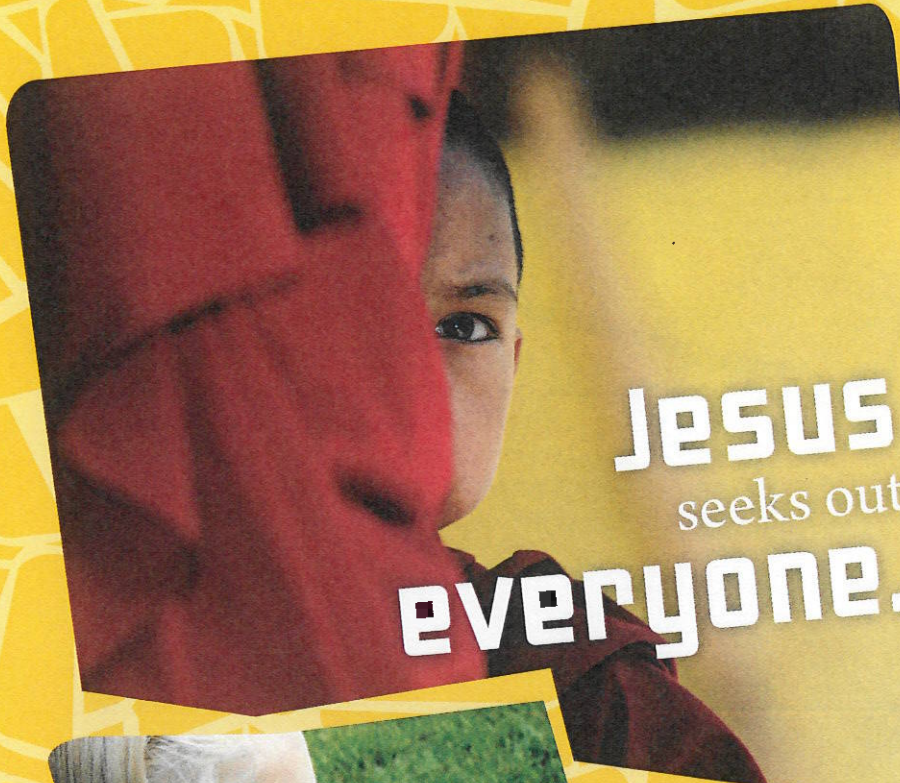
Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Zacchaeus



Luke 19:1-10



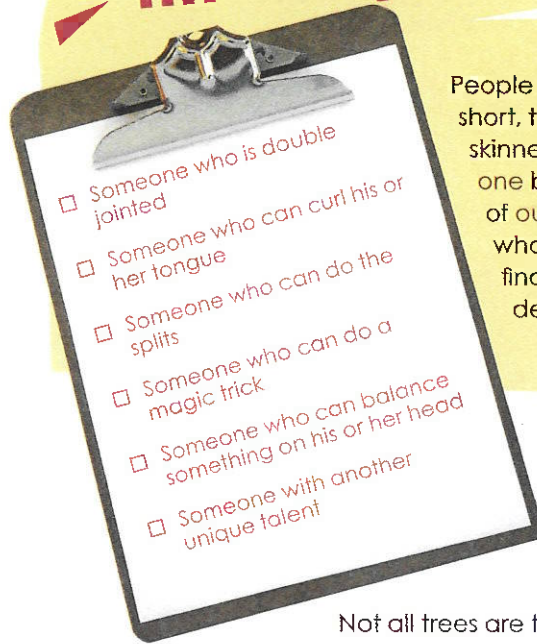
JESUS
seeks out
everyone.



What would
it take to
change you?

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All shapes and sizes



People come in all different shapes and sizes: short, tall, skinny, chubby, freckled, dark skinned, light skinned, in a wheelchair. No one body type is perfect. The uniqueness of our body size, shape, and abilities is what makes us special. See if you can find people in your class who fit these descriptions . . .

Tree Climbing

Not all trees are the same. Some trees are better for climbing than others. Sycamores are good climbing trees because they have big, sturdy branches. How about these other trees—do you think they're good for climbing? Match the picture of each tree with its correct name. Can you get all nine?

PALM

REDWOOD

OAK

PINE

APPLE

WILLOW

CACTUS

BIRCH

SYCAMORE



Did You Know?

There is a National Register of Big Trees in the United States. People can nominate big trees based on trunk circumference, tree height, and the spread of the crown.

Look It Up!

Zacchaeus was a tax collector. So was one of Jesus' disciples. Find out which one in Luke 5:27-28. How was this tax collector similar to Zacchaeus?

What Zacchaeus Told His (Only) Friend

Zacchaeus is down from the tree, and is he excited! Jesus is going to come to his house later for dinner. And Zacchaeus wants to tell all of his friends, except there's a problem: He only has one friend, another tax collector. People don't like Zacchaeus because of his job, and because of how he cheats and treats people who don't have enough money to pay their taxes. But after seeing and meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus has changed.

Imagine that you are Zacchaeus and you're writing a note to your friend.

Try to describe:

- What it was like to meet Jesus
- How Jesus made you feel
- How you've changed as a result of meeting Jesus
- What you plan to do with him and for him when he shows up at your house later
- Anything else you think Zacchaeus might be thinking!

Group Prayer

The book of Psalms includes lots of songs about receiving God's forgiveness. Psalm 32:1-7 is a good one. Check it out! This song of thanksgiving could have been one that Zacchaeus sang when Jesus called him from the tree and visited him at his home.

Zacchaeus was so excited when Jesus welcomed him that he decided to be generous with his stuff and to repay people he'd stolen from. He knew he wasn't perfect, which is why he was so thankful that Jesus cared for him anyway.

In small groups, write a prayer for the church that expresses your own apologies for wrong-doing and thankfulness for God's forgiveness.

We are sorry for

We are thankful for

Faith on the Go!

When Zacchaeus was curious enough to go outside and look for Jesus, he found him! After a little tree climbing, there he was.

Sometime this week, get curious! Go for a walk or ride your bike on a different route. Climb a tree and look down to get a new view. Do some stargazing. And while you're there, look for new ways that you see Jesus.



Memory Verse

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



Treetop Message

While others grumbled about Zacchaeus, Jesus had a powerful message! Can you find it in these leaves? Start with the word *Today*, then follow the directions in the trunk of the tree to discover what Jesus said.

Extra challenge: Use the words to make up another message. Then create new directions so someone else can find it.

