

Zacchaeus

Storyteller: *Unroll the road:* Jesus travelled throughout Israel, teaching and healing the people. One day he was travelling through Jericho. *Move Jesus along the road.*

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus was going through Jericho, 2 where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes[a] and was very rich. 3-4 Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

5 When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." 6 Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

7 Everyone who saw this started grumbling, "This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

8 Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much[b] to everyone I have ever cheated."

9 Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. 10 The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

Crowds of people came out to see Jesus. *Hold the Zacchaeus figure out to the children.* One of them was Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector, and was rich. *Put Zacchaeus down on the road some distance behind Jesus.*

Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see over the crowd around Jesus. *Place two or three apostles between Jesus and Zacchaeus.*

So Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him. *Put the Jesse tree down beside the road ahead of Jesus, and put Zacchaeus up in the tree.*

Move Jesus along the road and stop him next to the tree. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today."

Set Zacchaeus down at the end of the road facing back in the direction that Jesus is coming from, and then move Jesus along the road. So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.

All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."

Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back

four times as much."

Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Story Materials

- ☐ Jesus
- ☐ Zacchaeus
- ☐ Apostles
- ☐ Jesse Tree
- ☐ Road

Tray, basket or shallow open