

LIFE OF CHRIST  
from the gospel of  
Luke

Lesson 43

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

# Life of Christ

## Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

### Younger Verse

*"The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."* Luke 19:10

### Older Verse

*"The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."* Luke 19:10

### Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last time, we learned about the rich young man who talked to Jesus. He did not want to give up his wealth to follow Jesus. Today, we meet another rich man named Zacchaeus, who was a tax collector. Tax collectors became rich by cheating people. They would take more money from the people than they were supposed to. So they were not very popular, and the Jews considered them "sinners."

Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus was coming, and he wanted to see Him. But Zacchaeus had a problem—he was short! He could not see over the other people who crowded around Jesus! But that didn't stop Zacchaeus. He ran ahead to a place in Jesus' path, and he climbed up a sycamore tree so when Jesus passed by he could see Him.

When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must go to your house today!"

Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree in a hurry. He was excited to meet Jesus. He must have wondered how Jesus knew his name! But the people who saw this conversation were not happy. They said to each other, "Jesus is going with a sinner!"

Zacchaeus had experienced Jesus' kindness, and he wanted to make things right in his life. He told Jesus that he would give half of everything he owned to the poor people. And he also said that he would pay back the people he had cheated—by giving them **FOUR TIMES** the amount he had taken!

### Lesson Goals

**Learn that Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus**

**Learn that Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus and went to his home**

**Learn that Zacchaeus changed after being with Jesus**

Jesus responded to this by saying, “Salvation has come to this house today, because this man is also a son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.”

Jesus was not worried about what anyone thought about Zacchaeus. He looked at Zacchaeus’ heart and saw a man who needed forgiveness. And when Zacchaeus received God’s forgiveness, he showed how Jesus changed him by giving back! God gave Zacchaeus a new attitude about life.

God wants to do the same for you. Tell God you are sorry for the bad things (sins) you have done. Tell Him you believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again three days later. He did this to pay for your sins. Invite Jesus to be in your heart. He will save you and give you a new life!

#### Review Questions

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb up a tree? (He was short; Jesus was passing by and he wanted to see Him.)
2. Why did the people call Zacchaeus a “sinner”? (Zacchaeus was a tax collector; they often stole people’s money from them.)
3. What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do? (Come down from the tree; He was to go to his house.)
4. What did Zacchaeus do after Jesus came to his house? (He gave half of everything he owned to poor people; he paid back those he had cheated four times what he owed them.)
5. What did Jesus say had come to Zacchaeus’ house? (salvation)

#### Life Application

When Jesus said “The Son of Man,” He was talking about Himself. Jesus came to find those who were lost in their sins and save them. That means all of us. Even though the people called Zacchaeus a “sinner,” they were all sinners. And so are we. The Bible says that “All have sinned and fall short of God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23)

Since we have all sinned, we all need a Savior. And that Savior is Jesus. He wants to come into your life and help you to make things right in your life. Maybe there are people you need to tell you are sorry for something you have done to them. Let God help you to make things right with Him and others.

Planning for Lesson 44  
The Parable of the Talents  
Luke 19:11-27

## Preschool Lesson for Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Have you ever climbed up a tree? Are you able to see things better when you are up high? Today we are talking about a guy who needed to see Jesus. His name was Zacchaeus (Zak-e-us). (*You may want to sound it out*).

Zacchaeus was a rich man. He was a tax collector, and sometimes they took too much money from people and kept it for themselves (stealing). Stealing is not right. God tells us not to take what does not belong to us.

Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus was coming to town, and he wanted to see Him. But Zacchaeus had a problem—he was short! He could not see over the other people who crowded around Jesus! But that didn't stop Zacchaeus. He ran ahead to a place in Jesus' path, and he climbed up a sycamore tree so when Jesus passed by he could see Him.

When Jesus came to that place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must go to your house today!" Wow! Jesus even knew his name!

Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree in a hurry. He was excited to meet Jesus. He took Jesus to his home and welcomed Him in. He knew that Jesus loved him and wanted him to be right with God.

Zacchaeus wanted to make things right in his life. He told Jesus that he would give half of everything he owned to the poor people. And he also said that he would pay back the people he had cheated—by giving them **FOUR TIMES** the amount he had taken!

Zacchaeus knew that God loved him. He turned away from his sinful ways and made things right with those he had cheated. This made Jesus very happy. Jesus said that Zacchaeus became right with God that day. He also said that He had come to find those who needed Him so they could be right with God.

We need to do what Zacchaeus did. We need to look for Jesus and ask Him to forgive our sins. We need to turn away from the bad things we do. Jesus died on the cross to pay for all the sins we have done. Let's ask Him to help us live for Him.

**Hands-on Activities  
for  
Zacchaeus Meets Jesus**

Bring fake money. Have the students act out the story. Choose the shortest person to be Zacchaeus. Then have tall people crowd around him/her. Then “Zacchaeus” can get up on a chair and see Jesus. After Jesus talks to Zacchaeus, have Zacchaeus give the fake money to the other kids.

Bring pictures of things that might get in the way of our being with Jesus (TV, radio, phone, other people, etc.) Talk about how important it is to be with Jesus each day. Then hold up a Bible and say that we need to spend time in God’s Word each day—away from the distractions.

Sing the song, “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man.”

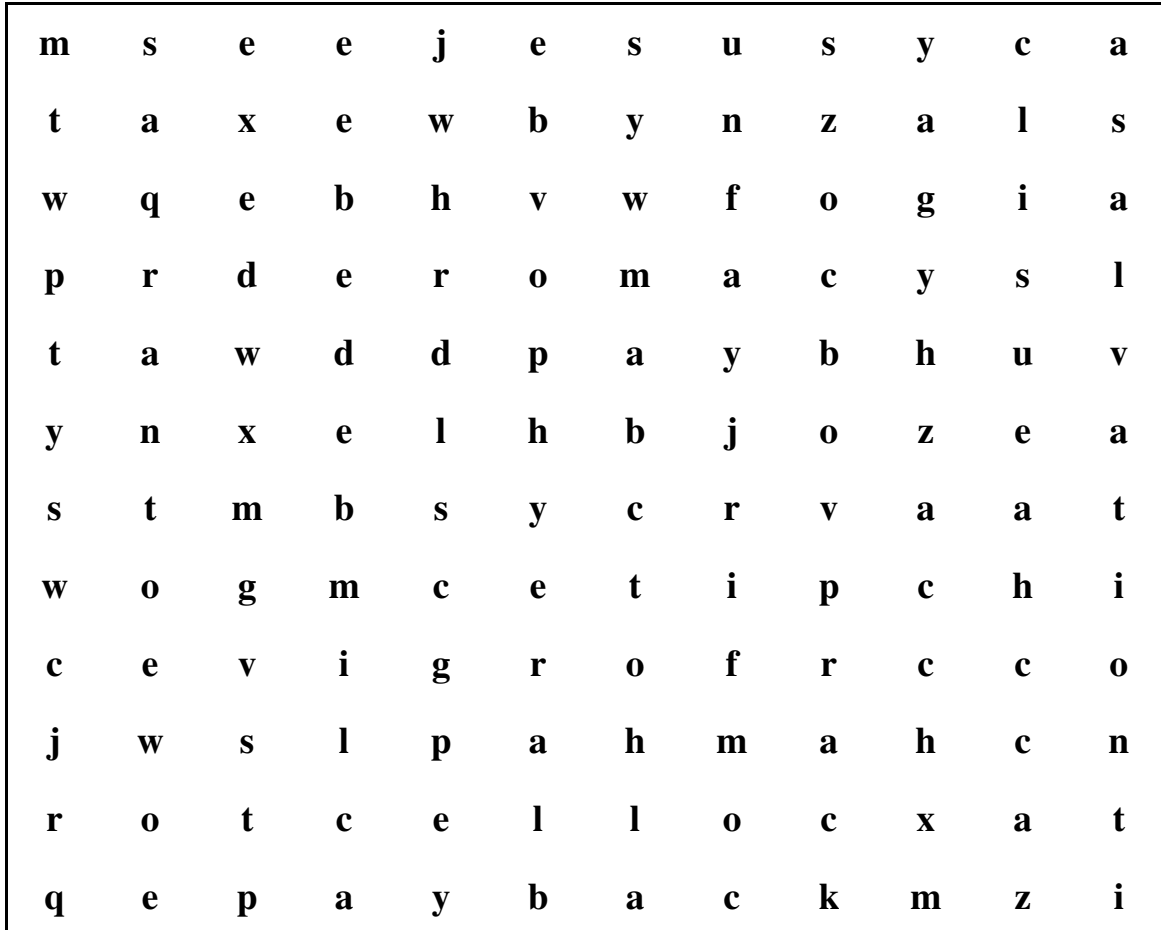
Have kids make trees out of construction paper. They can draw Zacchaeus up in the tree.

**“The Son of Man came  
to find lost people and  
save them.”  
Luke 19:10**



# Word Search

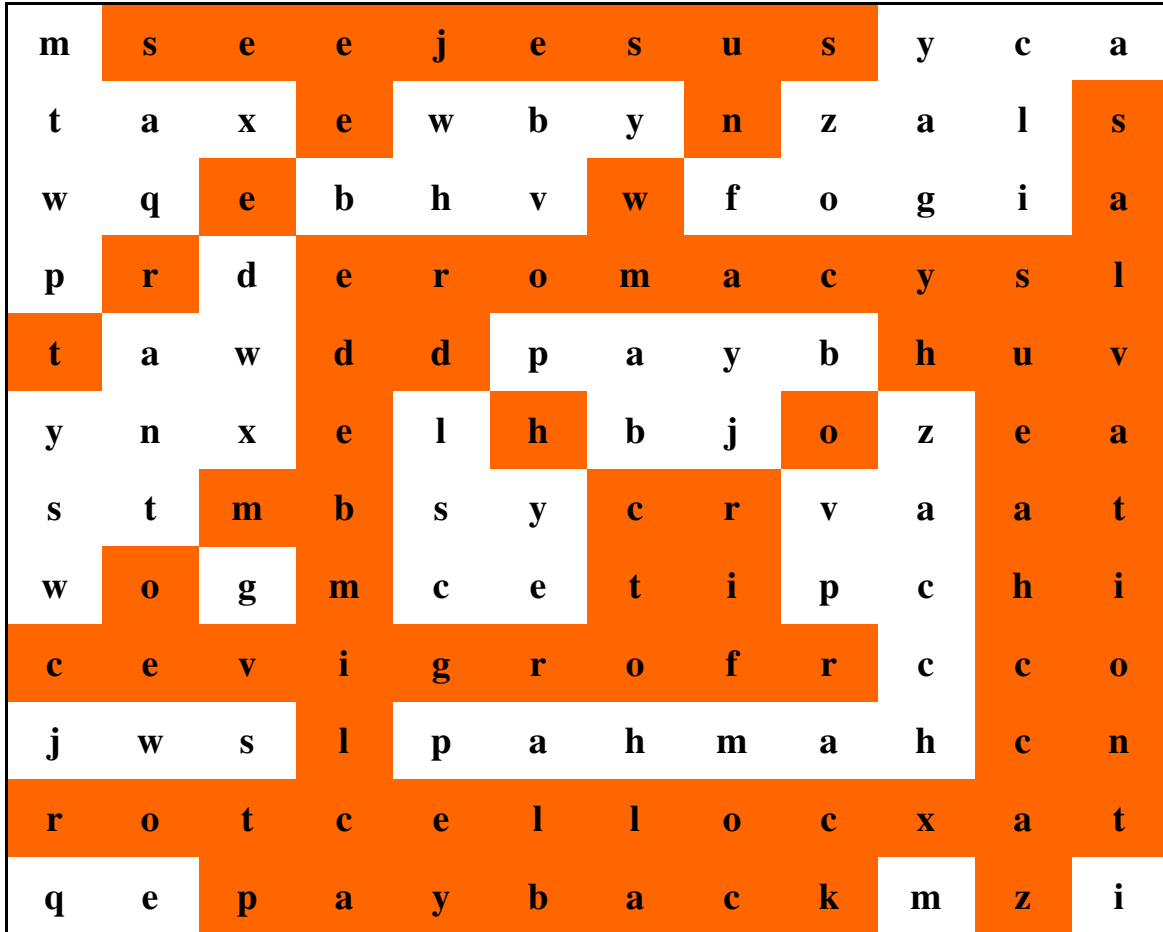
## Zacchaeus Meets Jesus



<b>Zacchaeus</b>	<b>tax collector</b>	<b>rich</b>
<b>sycamore</b>	<b>tree</b>	<b>climbed</b>
<b>see Jesus</b>	<b>short</b>	<b>Come down</b>
<b>pay back</b>	<b>forgive</b>	<b>salvation</b>

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