

## Zacchaeus - Jesus' Love Changes Us!

**Bible Passage:** Luke 19:1–10

**Memory Verse of the Week:** “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

## Storytelling Video

Click [HERE](#) to watch this week's Kids Worship video. Click [HERE](#) to listen to the Zacchaeus song!

## Discussion & Activities

Review the story with your children. Use the image below to review the story in creative and unique ways that you know your child will enjoy. Use a Bible to read this story straight from God's Word as you review it. Encourage your reading-age children to practice using their own Bibles!



### Story Overview:

Have you ever had to climb up on your mom or dad's shoulders to see over other people's heads? A man named Zacchaeus had to do some climbing too. Zacchaeus collected taxes from people for the government. In Bible times, tax collectors often stole some of the money they collected, and people didn't like them. One day, Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming to town. He really wanted to see Jesus, so he hurried to where the crowd was gathered waiting for Jesus. But Zacchaeus was too short to see over everyone else's heads! So he came up with a plan. He would climb a tree to make sure he'd see Jesus. When Jesus passed by, he didn't ignore Zacchaeus like other people did. In fact, he told Zacchaeus he was coming to stay at his house! Zacchaeus was very happy and realized that Jesus loved him. That day, his whole life changed because of Jesus' love for him.

### Discussion Questions:

Adapt and ask these questions to fit your children's ages and developmental levels.

1. What was Zacchaeus like before he met Jesus?
2. What was he like after he met Jesus?
3. In what ways has Jesus' love changed you already?
4. Is there anything you want to change or stop doing?
5. How can Jesus help you do that?

## Prayer of Blessing

Bless each child individually by going around and gently placing your hand on their head or shoulder saying:

**(Child's name), may you receive God's love for you and allow that to change your heart and make you new.**

Take this time to pray with and for you children. Allow them to share prayer requests, pray for each other, and pray their and others specific prayer requests.

## Activity: Shortest to Tallest

### SUPPLIES

All the members of your family, toys

### PLAY

Get your children to start thinking about height. Which is taller: a baby or a desk? Which is shorter: a paperclip or a popsicle stick? Which do you think is taller: a giraffe or an elephant? After talking, try to get your family in order from tallest to shortest, letting your children take the lead. After, you can have your children arrange some of their toys or objects from tallest to shortest. Make it a challenge or competition - see how many of their belongings can they put in order?

## **Craft: Make a Tree**

### **SUPPLIES**

Paper, drawing/coloring materials, more supplies listed below in examples.

### **CREATE**

Help your children brainstorm some ideas on how they could create their own tree with materials they could find around the house and yard. As you craft, talk about the story. Here are some ideas:

- Trace a hand (the branches) and then down the arm (the trunk). Color those brown, then draw green leaves on your fingers!
- Find small sticks and leaves from outside and glue them onto paper in the shape of a tree.
- Use different colored papers to cut out a trunk and leaves, then glue them on the paper.
- Make a tree out of snacks you have at home. Pretzel sticks and grapes? Bread and green gummies? Look through your fridge and pantry and get creative!
- Paint your child's hand green, then stamp it onto a piece of paper. Then paint a trunk.