

37. Zacchaeus Finds a Friend

Dear Jesus, thank You for our Bible stories. Please bless us as we learn more about how much You love us. Amen.

Our Bible story today is about a short man name Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was collecting money for the Romans, but he was collecting more than he was supposed to. He was keeping the extra money for himself. **[Show money.]** When we take something that

belongs to someone else, it is called stealing. The Happiness Rules tell us that stealing is wrong. Stealing causes a lot of sadness in our world. Zacchaeus knew it was wrong to steal. He started to feel sorry for stealing. **[Picture #1.]**

One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was going to walk down the road near his home. Zacchaeus was excited. He wanted to see Jesus. He wanted to talk to Jesus, but he wasn't sure if Jesus would want to talk to him. Most people didn't like Zacchaeus because he was a thief.

Zacchaeus went to the road where Jesus was walking. There were many people there—so many that Zacchaeus couldn't see over their heads, because Zacchaeus was short.

"How can I see Jesus?" Zacchaeus wondered.



1 Zacchaeus knew it was wrong to steal. He started to feel sorry for stealing.

Lesson for the youngest ones. (Continues on the following page.)

Our Bible story today is about a short man named Zacchaeus. **[Picture #1.]** One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus would be walking down the road near his home. Zacchaeus was excited. He wanted to see Jesus and talk to Him.

Zacchaeus went to the road where Jesus was walking, but there were so many people that Zacchaeus couldn't see over their heads. Then Zacchaeus had an idea. He would climb up in a tree. Then he could see Jesus. **[Picture #2.]**

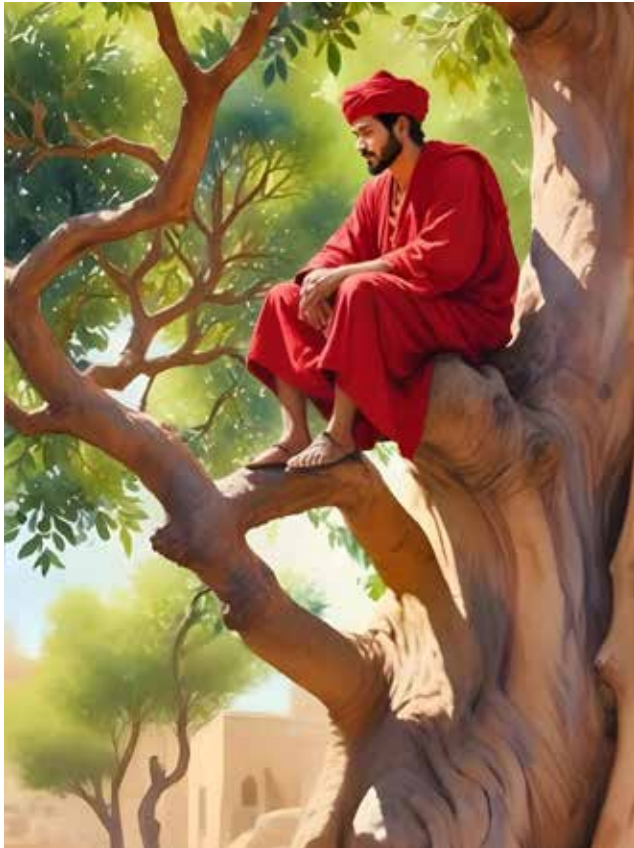
Soon Jesus walked under the tree where Zacchaeus was sitting. Jesus stopped and looked up.

"Zacchaeus, come down," Jesus called. "I want to go to your house today."



Then Zacchaeus had an idea. There was a big tree right by the road where Jesus would soon walk. The big tree had branches that hung right over the road. Zacchaeus ran to the tree. Zacchaeus was wearing nice clothes, but he didn't care. Zacchaeus climbed right up the tree and sat on a big branch that hung over the road.

[Picture #2.]



2 Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see Jesus.

There were lots of people walking and talking with Jesus. Everyone was so busy talking, Zacchaeus was sure that he wouldn't be noticed. But when Jesus walked under the big tree, He stopped and looked straight up at Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus was very surprised when Jesus stopped under the tree. He was even more surprised at the kind look on Jesus' face, and by



3 Jesus went with Zacchaeus to his house. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus loved him and ate with him.

Zacchaeus was so happy! Jesus knew his name! Jesus was coming to his house for dinner! Zacchaeus hurried down from the tree. Together, they went to Zacchaeus' house. **[Picture #3.]**

The people who were walking with Jesus were surprised that Jesus talked to Zacchaeus. They knew that Zacchaeus had been stealing money. They didn't like Zacchaeus, and they didn't want Jesus to like him, either. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus. He knew that Zacchaeus was sorry for stealing. Zacchaeus loved Jesus, too, and made Him a special meal.

Would you like to invite Jesus into your home like Zacchaeus did? When you read Bible stories and pray, you are inviting Jesus into your home. **[Picture #4.]** When you help Daddy and Mommy, and when you are kind to your brothers or sisters, you are inviting Jesus to visit your home. Let's invite Jesus into our homes today.

the kind words He said. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? **Read Luke 19:5.**

The people who were walking with Jesus were just as surprised as Zacchaeus.

“Why would Jesus go to Zacchaeus’ house?” they asked each other. “Doesn’t Jesus know that Zacchaeus is a thief?”

But Zacchaeus was very, very happy. Jesus knew his name! Jesus wanted to go to his house! Zacchaeus hurried down from the tree and stood by Jesus. He told Jesus that he was sorry for stealing. Then they went to his house. **[Picture #3.]**

Jesus didn’t care what those people thought. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was sorry for stealing. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was paying

back all the money he had stolen. Zacchaeus was being kind to poor people who needed food and clothes. Zacchaeus had changed!

Before meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus knew people didn’t like him. But Jesus loved Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus loved Jesus, too, and made a special meal for Jesus to show his love.

Would you like to invite Jesus into your home like Zacchaeus did? When you read Bible stories and pray, it is the same as inviting Jesus into your home. **[Picture #4.]** When you help Daddy and Mommy, and when you are kind to your brothers or sisters, it is the same as inviting Jesus to visit your home.

Let’s invite Jesus into our homes every day.



4 Let’s invite Jesus into our homes every day.

Parents’ Corner

Let not home education be regarded as a secondary matter. It occupies the first place in all true education. Fathers and mothers have entrusted to them the molding of their children’s minds. It is their privilege to help their children obtain that knowledge which they may carry with them into the future life.

—*The Review and Herald*, June 6, 1899

My Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for loving us so much. Please visit our house today. We choose to belong to You. Please keep us safe from Satan. Amen.

My Memory Verse

“I always do those things that please Him.”
John 8:29

Visual Aids

Bible; money

Scripture References

Luke 19:1–10



Animals That Climb

“So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.” Luke 19:4



Have you ever climbed a tree? In our Bible story today, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree. There are many reasons why people, or animals, might want to climb a tree. Zacchaeus climbed so he could see Jesus. In God’s animal world, many animals climb trees so they can see farther, find food, or be safe.

The baboon is one animal that is good at tree climbing. Baboons are good at climbing rocks, too. Baboons have very long tails. The baboons use their long tails to help them keep from falling when they are in a high place. By putting their tails this way or that, they are able to keep their balance.

The gecko lizard is another expert climber. God gave the geckos a special kind of foot that



helps them to hold onto and climb just about anything. Geckos can climb more than trees. They might climb right up a smooth wall, a piece of glass, or even walk upside down across a ceiling!

Squirrels are also very good at climbing. Squirrels have sharp little claws that help them to hold onto trees or whatever else they are trying to scamper up.

One of the best animal climbers, the cat, might live in your house. In a house, a cat might try to climb some curtains. That is not a good idea.

Jesus knew that some animals would need to climb trees, so He made them so that they could. Jesus also made the trees for the animals to climb. Isn’t Jesus wonderful?

