



Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus had a LOT of money. He had a lot of money because he took money that did NOT belong to him! Zacchaeus had done many wrong things by taking this money. People did not like him because of all the times he had taken money that was not his.

One day Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. *I want to go see Jesus*, he decided. Off he hurried to the road where Jesus was walking. A large crowd of people had come to see Jesus. So when Zacchaeus got there, he couldn't see Jesus! Zacchaeus was very short. Even on tiptoe he could not see over the crowd of people.

But then Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran to a big tree. And he climbed up, up, UP the tree. Now he could see over all the people!

Zacchaeus could see Jesus. Jesus came closer and closer—until Jesus was right under the tree! Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus.

“Come down, Zacchaeus,” said Jesus. “I want to stay at your house today.” Zacchaeus climbed down, down, down from that tree. He was surprised that Jesus talked to him! But Zacchaeus was very glad to have Jesus come to his house.

Jesus loves me! Zacchaeus must have thought. He thought about the wrong things he had done. He thought about the money he had wrongly taken away from people. Zacchaeus told Jesus he wanted to give back the money he had taken. And he wanted to give money to the poor people, too! Zacchaeus had learned to love Jesus. Jesus was not angry at him, even though Zacchaeus had done wrong things. Jesus was kind and forgiving to him.

Tree Mural

Collect

Bible, 8-foot (2.4-m) length of butcher paper, markers, tape.

Prepare

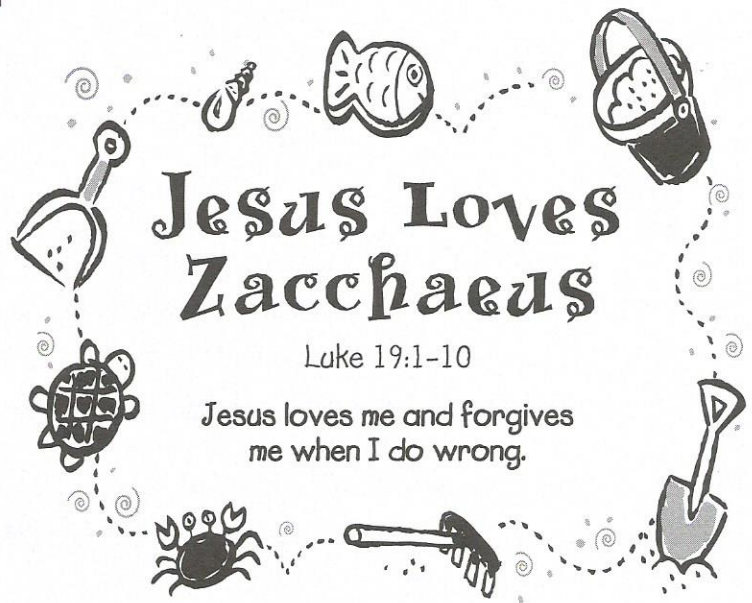
On paper, draw a tree with many branches. Cut out a face-shaped hole above a low branch.

Do

1. Children color tree and draw leaves. Tape mural to doorway (see sketch).
2. As one child looks through the hole, lead another child to say, "Zacchaeus! Come down. I want to stay at your house today." Continue until each child has had a turn.

Enrichment Ideas

1. Lead children to use the mural to act out the Bible story.
2. Before class, draw simple leaf shapes on green construction paper. In class, invite children to cut out and glue leaves on butcher paper.
3. Cut brown paper bags into small squares. Show children how to crumple and then smooth out the squares to give pieces the look of tree bark. Invite children to glue pieces onto tree trunk and branches.



Talk About

- ☀ In our Bible story today, Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus, so he climbed up a tree. Zacchaeus had done wrong things. But Jesus wanted to come to his house anyway. Jesus showed that He loved Zacchaeus. Let's make a tree to remind us of this story.
- ☀ Katie, what if it were your turn to glue leaves on our tree, but someone pushed ahead of you? Would that be a right or a wrong thing to do? What would you do?
- ☀ When we do wrong things, we can ask Jesus to forgive us. When Jesus forgives us, we know that Jesus loves us. Zoe, what are some wrong things we might need forgiveness for?





Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

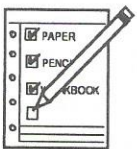
Luke 19:1-10

Climb a Tree Picture

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus walk by, but he was very short. He could not see above the crowd.

Suddenly, Zacchaeus started to run. He ran and ran until he reached a tree. Then, he climbed up on a branch for a perfect seat to wave to Jesus.

Color the pictures of the tree and Zacchaeus. Add green leaves to the tree and cut out Zacchaeus. Your teacher will help you glue Zacchaeus on the tree branch in time for Jesus to walk by and see him.

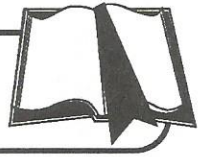


For the Teacher: Duplicate the pictures. After the children color, help them cut out the tree and glue it to a piece of bright construction paper. Then they may cut out Zacchaeus and glue him on the tree branch. The children may add pieces of green construction paper or tissue paper for leaves. Talk about how Jesus cares about us. He loves small people and tall people. He is glad when we want to be close to Him.

A Visit with Jesus Picture

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

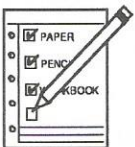


Zacchaeus was very happy to have Jesus visit his house. Zacchaeus sometimes took money that did not belong to him. He probably had few friends. Now, Jesus was coming home with him. Jesus asked Zacchaeus to follow Him and obey God.

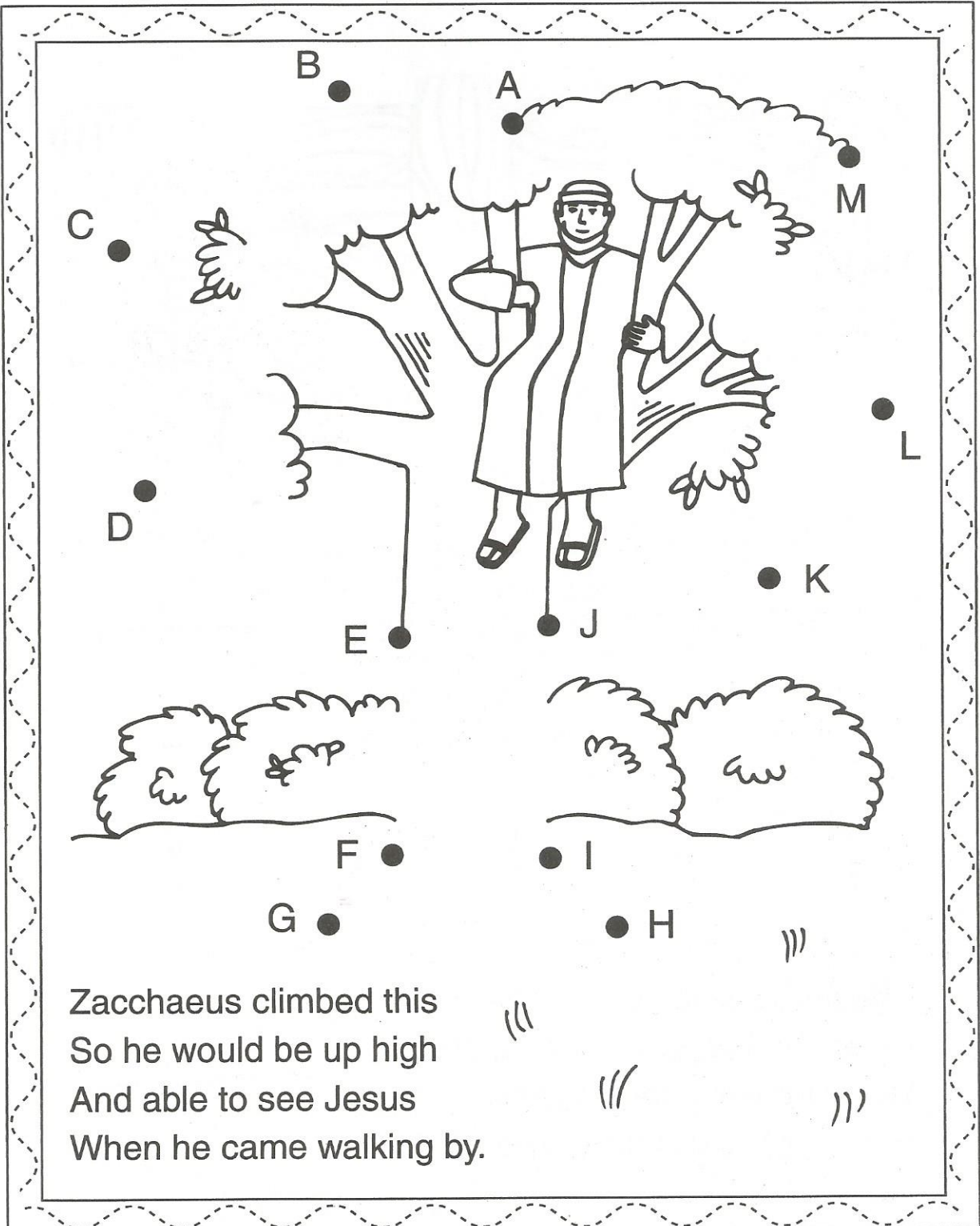
Zacchaeus said he would repay the people he had wronged.

Draw a picture of what you might tell Jesus about if He came to visit your house. Or, draw something you would do to make Jesus happy in your home.

*Thank you, Jesus, for
visiting my home.*
John 14:23



For the Teacher: Provide pictures and crayons for the children. Give ideas for those who are unsure how to tell what they want to say or do when Jesus comes. Assure them Jesus does live in our hearts and homes when we love Him. To make a frame for this page, glue it to a sheet of brightly colored construction paper.



Zacchaeus climbed this
 So he would be up high
 And able to see Jesus
 When he came walking by.

