

Today's Bible Story: Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10

Jesus cares about you no matter what.

Key Question: Who does Jesus care about?

Bottom Line: Jesus cares about everyone.

Memory Verse: *How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* • Ephesians 3:18 NIV

1. Zacchaeus in the Tree Craft

What You Need:

- Zacchaeus in the Tree activity page
- Pre-cut leaves
- Printed Zacchaeus
- Crayons or markers
- Glue sticks

What You Do:

- Give each kid a paper with the bare tree printed on it.
- Write the child's name on his/her paper.
- Invite the children to color their tree using crayons or markers.
- Hand out the pre-cut leaves and have kids glue them onto their tree branches.
- Next, guide kids to color Zacchaeus and glue him onto one of the branches so he's sitting in the tree above Jesus who is down below.
- Give the kids time to finish decorating their scene.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Friends, come have a seat at one of the floor tables! *(Pause.)* There was a tree in our story today. Do you remember who climbed up in the tree? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! Zacchaeus climbed up in the tree so he could see Jesus! Please color your tree, Zacchaeus *(hold up a picture of Zacchaeus)*, and Jesus. Great job! Now where does Zacchaeus go? That's right, he goes in the tree! Find a nice branch for him to sit on and then glue him to the tree branch. Wow now he can see Jesus down below! Our tree is looking a little bare. It needs some leaves. Let's add leaves for our tree. That looks beautiful!"

After the Activity: "Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus loves everyone. Jesus was coming to town, and Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. Everyone wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was too short and couldn't see over the crowd, so he climbed up a big tree just like this so he could see. And Jesus saw Zacchaeus too. Jesus said, 'Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house today!' Jesus changed Zacchaeus' heart, and Zacchaeus gave money back to everyone."

“Jesus told Zacchaeus that He came to help people who are lost and hurting and to rescue them.

Jesus didn’t come to just help people who do the right thing all the time. Jesus came to help people who are sick and hurting and do wrong things, like Zacchaeus. ***[Bottom Line]* Jesus cares about everyone**, no matter what. That means Jesus loves and cares for us too! Who does Jesus care about? ***[Bottom Line]* Jesus cares about everyone.**”

2. Pray

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us no matter what. Please forgive us when we do something wrong. And help us forgive others too. You’re the best, God. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”