



JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Luke 19:1-10

Dear Parents,

Zacchaeus lived in the town of Jericho. He was a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus's job was to collect money from the Jews for the Roman government. Many people knew Zacchaeus, and many did not like him.

The Bible says that Zacchaeus was rich. Tax collectors often collected more money than necessary and kept the surplus for themselves. His greed and dishonesty led Zacchaeus to being looked down upon as a "sinner." But Zacchaeus treasured his wealth more than his reputation.

Zacchaeus probably never imagined that his entire life would change in a single day. When Jesus came through Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. He couldn't see over the crowds, so he climbed a sycamore tree and watched Jesus from a distance.

Imagine the crowd's surprise when Jesus approached the tree and called out to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today I must stay at your house."

Of all the people in Jericho, Jesus chose to visit Zacchaeus! The other people complained. What was Jesus thinking, going to stay with a sinner like Zacchaeus?

The story reveals that Zacchaeus's encounter with Jesus changed him. He offered to give half of his possessions to the poor and pay back four times what he had cheated from others. Zacchaeus no longer treasured his wealth. He realized that Jesus offered something so much better. Jesus confirmed this evidence of a changed heart: "Today salvation has come to this house."

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came after us—sinners who do not deserve Him—and He rescues us from sin. Jesus died on the cross for our sin, and He is glad when we repent and trust in Him.

People who encounter Jesus do not walk away unchanged. Pray that your kids encounter the real Jesus, the One who came into the world because we needed Him. Jesus came to seek and save the lost—people like Zacchaeus and people like us. “I didn’t come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17). When we repent and trust in Jesus, He changes us.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- Babies and Toddlers
 - Jesus is the Messiah.
 - People did not love Zacchaeus, but Jesus did.
 - Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus.
 - Jesus came to rescue us.
- Preschool
 - Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is God’s Son.
 - Jesus loved Zacchaeus.
- Kids
 - Who did Jesus say He is? Jesus said He is the Messiah.
 - Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus forever.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- John 14:6

NEXT WEEK

- “Parable of the Sower” (Matthew 13:1-9,18-23)



Our Vision for Children

At Harlan Baptist Church we take seriously the Lord’s command to “bring [our children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

We envision a church culture or atmosphere that reflects that of Moses’ instruction to God’s people as they prepared to enter into the Promised Land as found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

In fact, Psalm 78 sets forth the very desire of our heart, that our children would hope in the Lord and not forget the God who gives them life.

Therefore, it is our desire to partner with parents in seeing our children come to faith in Christ and prepare them for life-long obedience to His Word.

At Harlan Baptist, we use a number of different methods and teaching styles to achieve these desired goals.

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