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READ this in The Story Bible: p. 383
In your Bible: Luke 19:1-10

In this week's story we are going to learn about a man named Zacchaeus. It was Zacchaeus' job to collect taxes for the Roman government. Often tax collectors like Zacchaeus would cheat the Jewish citizens by overcharging them for their taxes and then keeping the extra money for themselves, he became very rich doing this. Because Zacchaeus was a tax collector that worked for the hated Roman government and because he cheated the people, most people disliked him and didn't want anything to do with him. As you listen to or read the story, answer this question: **How did Jesus show his concern and love for Zacchaeus?**

Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming through Jericho and he really wanted to see Jesus. But the streets were crowded with people and Zacchaeus was a very short man. There was no way he was going to be able to see Jesus over the crowds of people already waiting to see Jesus. **What kind of solution did Zacchaeus come up with for this problem of not being able to see Jesus?**

Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd and he climbed up a sycamore tree. Now he was in the perfect position to see Jesus as Jesus passed by. But guess what, Jesus did not pass by, Jesus stopped right under Zacchaeus and called him down from that tree. Jesus said he wanted to stay Zacchaeus' house. Zacchaeus was so excited; he came down right away and he took Jesus to his home.

Now there were some people who were grumbling, wondering why Jesus would go to the house of such a "terrible sinner" – someone who cheats people and steals their money. But Zacchaeus showed he had faith in Jesus and that he was sorry for his sins! He offered to give half of his money to the poor and he even said that for those he cheated, he would pay back four times as much. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was sorry for his sins and that had faith in Jesus as his Savior. Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house". Jesus also said, "this is why I came into the world – to look for and to save souls that were lost in sin".

Why do you think the people grumbled when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house? (They thought Zacchaeus was much more sinful than they were. But we are all sinners and need Jesus!)

Zacchaeus promised to correct his sinful ways by giving money to the poor and paying back those he cheated 4 times more than he'd taken. What does this show us about Zacchaeus? (He was truly sorry for his sins and had come to faith in Jesus, and he wanted to change his sinful ways.)

What would you say to someone who says the following, "I'm glad I learned that Jesus paid for all my sins, now I can sin all that I want"? (Our love for Jesus and our thankfulness for all that he has done for us will lead us to want to change our sinful ways – just like Zacchaeus wanted to change his sinful ways.)

Memory Treasure: Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

Prayer: Dear Father, thank you for loving us and making us yours through faith in Jesus. Help us stay away from sinful ways and live as your children. Amen

Want to share your artwork with us?

Email a picture of your Sunday School craft to office@gsholmen.org

*We will be showing pictures sent to us on the Church Screens during announcements