

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Luke 19:1-10

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus and Zacchaeus

Key-location: Jericho

Key-repetitions:

- Facts about Zacchaeus: chief tax collector (Lk 19:2); wealthy (Lk 19:2); short (Lk 19:3); disapproved by people (Lk 19:6); saved (Lk 19:9).
- Zacchaeus' actions: tried to see Jesus (Lk 19:3); ran and climbed a tree (Lk 19:4); climbed down (Lk 19:6); welcomed Jesus into his home (Lk 19:6); confessed that he would give to poor and repay those he had cheated (Lk 19:8).
- Jesus spoke: (Lk 19:5, 9).

Key-attitudes:

- Zacchaeus' eagerness to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus gladly welcomed Jesus into his home.
- People's disapproval of Jesus going to Zacchaeus' home.
- Zacchaeus' repentance.
- Jesus' joy at seeing a sinner saved.

Initial-situation:

Jesus was in the second half of his third year of public ministry. The religious leaders' antagonism toward Jesus increased. The people flip-flopped between excitement for Jesus when he performed a miracle, and anger toward Jesus when they didn't like his teaching. Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. Previously he warned his disciples three times that in Jerusalem he would die and come back to life. As he traveled, Jesus interacted with the crowd that followed him, and he constantly found teaching moments for his disciples.

Initial-problem:

Jesus was traveling through the town of Jericho. A tax collector named Zacchaeus wanted desperately to see Jesus.

Final-situation:

Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save people who are lost."

BIBLE STORY

Jesus was traveling through the town of Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus was in Jericho. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. Zacchaeus wanted

desperately to see Jesus, but he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree, in order to see Jesus when he passed that way.

Jesus reached the tree, looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must be a guest at your house today." Zacchaeus came down at once and gladly welcomed Jesus into his home.

All the people saw this and expressed disapproval, "Jesus went to be the guest of a sinner!"

Later, when they were in the house, Zacchaeus stood up and said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor. If I've cheated anybody out of anything, I'll pay back four times the amount."

Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Today, you and your family have been saved, because you've shown that you, too, are a descendant of Abraham. Indeed, the Son of Man came to seek and to save people who are lost" (Lk 19:1-10).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do we know about Zacchaeus?
2. How did Zacchaeus get to meet Jesus?
3. Why did Jesus desire to be a guest at Zacchaeus' house?
4. How has Jesus expressed his desire to be a guest in your home?
5. Why did people criticize Jesus for going to Zacchaeus' house?
6. Who are some people who are judged to be "sinners" by your culture?
7. How can you let them know that Jesus wants a relationship with them?
8. How did Zacchaeus give evidence that he changed his actions and attitude?
9. Where did Jesus first find you?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Wealth makes it difficult, but not impossible, to enter the Kingdom of God.** The hindrance is to consider wealth more important than the responsibility that a person has before God (Lk 18:26,27; Mat 6:33). Zacchaeus is an example of a wealthy person entering the Kingdom of God (Lk 19:1-10). He was different from the rich young ruler who refused to follow Jesus because wealth was more important than God. As the rich man walked away, Jesus stated it was almost impossible for the rich to enter the Kingdom (Lk 18:24-27).

2. **People value a physical miracle more than a spiritual miracle.** The people praised God for the miracle of Jesus giving sight to the blind men (Lk 18:43); however, they complained when they witnessed the miracle of the salvation of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:7). The people's reaction to the salvation of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:7-10) was similar to the reaction of the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:28-30).

3. **People who are social outcasts because of their political views, immorality, or lifestyle, need to know that Jesus seeks to have fellowship with them.** Jesus went to the home of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. The Romans levied heavy taxes on nations under their control. Zacchaeus was a Jew by birth who worked for Rome. Fellow Jews considered him a traitor. Tax collectors became rich by charging fellow Jews more taxes than Rome demanded. In spite of Zacchaeus being both a cheater and a turncoat, Jesus went to his home and gave him salvation (Lk 19:1-10).

4. **People who become upset when a sinner repents, have an attitude that is contrary to God's attitude.** The people saw Jesus enter the home of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. They expressed disapproval because Jesus went to be the guest of a man who was considered to be a great sinner (Lk 19:6). Jesus emphasized that he came to seek and to save people who are lost (Lk 19:10). The parable of the Prodigal Son emphasized God's desire to see sinners saved. The oldest son represents the Jews. They were religious, but didn't understand divine grace and God's love, which yearns for sinners to repent. The oldest son's anger is contrasted with the father's happiness (Lk 15:25-32).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Chant:

- Tell the story one time.
- Teach listeners the chant: "Jesus came to seek and to save sinners."
- Give listeners a hand signal that is a sign for them to repeat the chant. Retell the story, giving listeners the signal to chant at the appropriate places.

Listeners chant: Jesus came to seek and to save sinners.

Teller:

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Teller:

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Later when they were in the house, Zacchaeus stood up and said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor. If I've cheated anybody out of anything, I'll pay back four times the amount."

Jesus answered Zacchaeus, "Today, you and your family have been saved, because this man, too, is a descendant of Abraham. Indeed, the Son of Man came to seek and to save people who are lost" (Lk 19:1-10).

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