

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 20

*Zacchaeus*

# Zacchaeus

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

**Objective** This lesson will show the students Jesus’ heart for sinners and encourage them to have the same heart.

## Key Verses

Luke 19:1-10—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 18:18-30

## Memory Verse - Romans 10:13

“For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

## Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, John 20:29b.

Bring up some volunteers to act out some scenes with you. First, pretend to be a doctor who doesn’t like sick people (have the kids be the sick people). Then pretend to be a zookeeper who doesn’t like animals. Finally, be a dentist who is grossed out by teeth. Make the examples silly to show that none of these things make sense.

In today’s story, some people thought that Jesus is like this. They thought that Jesus was a Savior who didn’t like sinners.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

The focus of this lesson is on Jesus and Zacchaeus, but first we need to look at Jesus' interaction with a rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-30. This ruler came to Jesus asking how to receive eternal life but left sad when he learned that Jesus wanted him to sell all he had and give it to the poor. Then Jesus told His disciples that it was impossible for a rich man to enter God's kingdom, but with God all things are possible. Then in Luke 19, we meet Zacchaeus, who was a rich tax collector. Zacchaeus was a short man, so when he wanted to go see Jesus, he could not because he was unable to see over the crowds surrounding Him. However, Zacchaeus was determined, so he climbed up into a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus saw him, He told Zacchaeus to come down, because He was going to stay at Zacchaeus' house that day. When this happened, some people complained that Jesus was staying with a man who was such a sinner, but this did not stop Him. Zacchaeus was changed by this encounter with the Lord and declared that he was going to give half of his money to the poor and repay anyone whom he had ripped off four times as much money as he had taken. Jesus celebrated that another person had come to Him, since His mission was to seek and save the lost. The very thing that Jesus had declared impossible with man, that a rich man could enter into the kingdom of God, had happened.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK

As hard as it may be to believe, tax collectors were even more hated in Jesus' day than they are today. In that time, the Romans used Jewish tax collectors to take money from the rest of the Jewish people. These tax collectors were asked to collect a certain amount of money from each person, and whatever else they could get was theirs to keep. They were considered traitors and thieves by the Jews. This is how others would have seen Zacchaeus: a greedy, traitorous thief. This is why many people were so upset when Jesus had the nerve to go to his house.

Notice how complete a transformation Zacchaeus' salvation was. He did not just pray a prayer or say some nice things about Jesus. His conversion led to action and his life was totally transformed. In fact, he succeeded exactly where the rich young ruler failed. He was able to give up his idol, which was money, and give it to the poor as an act of worship to Jesus. When we become believers in Jesus, our actions should be totally transformed. Instead of living for ourselves, our words, thoughts, and actions should please Jesus.

# LOOK (Continued)

This story shows us two different ways people may interact with sinners. The crowd responded to Zacchaeus with disgust. They didn't think that someone like him deserved to be with Jesus. However, our Lord's response was just the opposite. He not only loved sinners, but verse 10 says that He was actively seeking to save them (and He still does today). Sinners were the very people Jesus came to save. He spent time with them and loved them because He wanted to see them get saved. The Bible says "whoever" calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved, not just "good people."

We should have the same heart and attitude towards sinners that Jesus did. While we should be wise about the sort of people we allow to influence our lives, that does not mean we should avoid unbelievers, even the ones that we might think of as bad. Just as much as Jesus wants you to be saved, He wants the bully at school, the teacher who says God isn't real, people in jail, and every other person who does not know Him to believe in Him. If Jesus cares about them, we should too. We should make every effort to show sinners the love of Christ. Finally, for any in the class who feel like they are like Zacchaeus, this story reminds us that we can never sin too much for God to still save us.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Romans 10:13.

Have the class make a list of people in their lives who seem far away from Jesus. Pray for them to be saved and think of ways the class can show God's love to them.

**Pray:** Thank Jesus for coming to save us, no matter what we have done. Ask Him to help each of us treat others with love, even those who are considered to be really bad.

**Parent Question:** What was the difference between the way the crowd treated Zacchaeus and the way Jesus treated him?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on Luke 19:1-10 by David Guzik

### *The Triumphal Entry*

#### A. Jesus and Zacchaeus

1. ([Luk 19:1-4](#)) Zacchaeus climbs a tree and risks ridicule to see Jesus.

Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*.

a. **Jesus entered and passed through Jericho:** Why did Jesus go **through Jericho** on His way to Jerusalem? Perhaps the only real reason was to meet with Zacchaeus. "There were other ways, but He went through Jericho, and the only incident recorded is this story of Zacchaeus, and I have no doubt the reason of His going was the finding of this man." (Morgan)

b. **Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector:** Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector, but a **chief tax collector**-and men of his profession were despised among the Jews. This was not only due to man's natural hatred of taxes, but more so to the fact that the tax collector made his profit on whatever *extra* he could get away with charging his client. A tax collector was highly motivated to make the taxes as high as possible.

i. When the tax collectors came to John the Baptist, asking how they could get right with God, he told them *collect no more than what is appointed for you* ([Luke 3:13](#)). If you were a tax collector, and you were rich, you were a rogue.

ii. The name **Zacchaeus** means "pure one." This man was anything but pure-until he met Jesus.

c. Yet, Zacchaeus was a man **of short stature**. We can imagine how through his life he might make up for his small size by being specially "tough" on those whom he had to collect taxes from. If so, this would have made him all the more an outcast.

d. **He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him:** Because Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly, he didn't mind doing something that many thought was beneath the dignity of a grown, wealthy man-he climbed up **a sycamore tree**.

i. "I wish there were more of us who did not mind being laughed at if only what we did helped us to see Jesus." (Maclaren)

2. ([Luk 19:5-6](#)) Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

a. Jesus started by calling **Zacchaeus** by name. Jesus knew the importance of a person's name.

i. In some ways, the most important thing a person has is their name. If you have a person's name, you have the person. If you don't have their name, they don't belong.

ii. Jesus knew the importance of a name. He said that He calls His sheep by name: *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out* ([John 10:3](#)). In Revelation, we are promised a new name that only God and we know. When we get to heaven, there will be someone there who knows our name.

iii. This may have been the first time Zacchaeus heard someone besides his mother say his name in a kind way. Saying his name made all the difference.

b. **Today I must stay at your house:** Jesus was willing to reach out His hand in friendship to this man who was universally despised. In the flesh, we can reject outcasts; but Jesus never did.

i. As one commentator says, "His example is our pattern. A Christian church which does not imitate its Master in its frank and continual willingness to associate itself with the degraded and outcast has lost one of the truest signs of its being vitalized with the life of Christ."

ii. The early church was despised for its acceptance of outcasts ([1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#)), but the early Christians regarded this as something glorious, not shameful.

c. **Make haste and come down:** Jesus was forward in pursuing friendship with Zacchaeus. He told Him to hurry up and come down, because Jesus invited Himself over for dinner!

i. But who made the first move? In a sense, the both did; Zacchaeus reached out to Jesus by literally "going out on a limb" for Him. Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus by speaking to him. They both reached out to each other.

3. ([Luk 19:7-10](#)) Zacchaeus renounces his sin and Jesus proclaims his salvation.

But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

a. **He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner:** Was Jesus guilty of associating with sinners? Yes and no; Jesus went into be a guest with a man who was a sinner, but He came out from the dinner with a saved man!

b. **Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord:** Seemingly, the dinner took place in between [Luke 19:7](#) and [Luke 19:8](#). It was after time with Jesus that Zacchaeus wanted to get right with God. Often people come to Jesus, and only see things that need to get right after they spend some time with Him.

i. The law required someone who had stolen to restore the amount, plus 20%. Zacchaeus cheerfully offers to do far more than the law demands. Also, to restore to **anyone** he has wronged would be remarkable; "Considering the way he had made his money it was unlikely that this would be a short list." (Morris)

c. **Today salvation has come to this house:** Jesus did not command Zacchaeus to do what He commanded the rich young ruler to do, because Zacchaeus did not *need* to. His giving heart was the way that this rich man could receive salvation.

i. In [Luke 18:24-27](#), Jesus said that it was impossible with man for the rich to enter into heaven; but it is possible with God. This is a fulfillment of that promise. Zacchaeus became a joyful giver, thus showing God's *impossible* work in him, but the young ruler went away sorry, holding on to his riches.

ii. The priests of Jericho (it was a Levitical city) had probably often condemned Zacchaeus and called on him to give to the poor. But after meeting Jesus, such a sacrifice was done joyfully. Love for Jesus can motivate us for greater things than legalism, guilt, or manipulation can ever do.

d. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost:** With this, Jesus explains why He extended friendship to a notorious sinner like Zacchaeus. Jesus came precisely to save people like Zacchaeus.

i. Zacchaeus *really* believed on Jesus. A true **son of Abraham** was not only descended from Abraham genetically, but also had the *faith* in God Abraham had.