

UNIT 3: GUIDE • SESSION 13:

“Zacchaeus”

LUKE 19:1-10

Showing the way,
like the light of Christ.

Open my eyes so I can examine
the wonders of your
Instruction!
Psalm 119:18

JESUS IS OUR GUIDE:

Today, we're exploring the story of Zacchaeus (Zah-key-us), a rich tax collector. Often what we remember about this story is a short man in a tree. But it is so much more than that! Zacchaeus was known to be unfair to people, but when Zacchaeus heard about Jesus, he wanted to change his ways. He wanted to be a better person and have a fresh start. Jesus saw him and forgave him. **This is a story of forgiveness – to stop feeling bad towards someone who has done something that is harmful.** The crowd was upset because they thought Jesus was making a bad decision but Jesus was showing that people can change their ways and should be forgiven and given second chances. **Jesus is our guide to forgiving others.**

BIBLE STORY: *A story from the book of Luke while Jesus was visiting towns and teaching people about God's love.* A tax collector wanted to see Jesus walk through his town. He was too short to see over the big crowd, so he ran ahead and climbed a tree.



There, he could see Jesus coming down the road. When Jesus got to the tree, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down. I must stay at your home.” Zacchaeus climbed down the tree, happy to welcome Jesus to his home. But the crowd was very unhappy with Jesus for spending time with a tax collector. They grumbled because tax collectors were known for being unfair. Zacchaeus heard what the crowd was saying. He looked at Jesus and made this promise, “Lord, I will give half of everything I own to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will repay them four times what I have taken.” Jesus knew Zacchaeus meant what he said, “Zacchaeus, today you have been changed.”

Jesus values all people, and wanted to show the crowd that God loves all people, even those who are imperfect. He picked someone out of the crowd who was disliked to show everyone that we all deserve second chances. Is there someone you need to forgive? Even if you can't do it right away, begin by trying to find forgiveness for that person in your own heart first. By forgiving others and ourselves we can grow closer to God.

*This is the second Sunday of Lent.
It's a special time for us to grow
closer to God to strengthen our faith.*

Dear God, Thank you for giving us Jesus to be our guide and to show us how to forgive. Help us find it in our hearts to forgive people who are on our minds today and give them second chances. Help us to forgive ourselves, too. Amen

WONDER QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES:

- What does it mean to forgive someone?
- Why do you think forgiveness is hard sometimes?
- When have you offered forgiveness?
- When has someone offered you forgiveness?
- Why do you think Jesus forgave Zacchaeus?
- In our story, Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see into the crowd better. Have you ever climbed a tree? What is it like to see the ground from high up? Does the world look a little different? What is your favorite kind of tree?
- **This story is as much about the crowd as it is about Zacchaeus. What do you think they learned?**
- Can you retell the story of Zacchaeus? Now can you tell it again in half as many words?
- **Since this is the second Sunday of Lent, find time to spend with God today.** Think of anyone you'd like to forgive. How would that make you feel? How do you think they would feel? Say a prayer and ask God to be your guide.

Zacchaeus

Tree True or False

Instructions

Read the statements about trees, and then decide whether you think they are true or false. Mark the true statements with a "T" and the false statements with an "F."



- ___ 1. Trees are the longest-living organisms in the world.
- ___ 2. Trees never die of old age.
- ___ 3. Trees need very little water to live.
- ___ 4. If you hang something on a tree branch, it will not move higher as the tree grows.
- ___ 5. Trees are not considered plants.
- ___ 6. A shrub is a type of plant that has similarities to a tree but does not grow tall enough to be considered a tree.
- ___ 7. Evergreen trees are trees that lose all their leaves or needles each year.
- ___ 8. A Christmas tree is usually an evergreen.
- ___ 9. Arbor Day is a special day when people traditionally plant new trees.
- ___ 10. Antarctica is the only continent on which trees do not grow.

Answer Key: 1.T 2.T 3.F 4.T 5.F 6.T 7.F 8.T 9.T 10.T

Zacchaeus

In the Story

Instructions

Follow the dots to discover an image from our Bible story.

