

ZACCHAEUS

Luke 18:31–19:10

KIDS
3RD-6TH

NL

Key Verse:

“For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

The Point:

Jesus brings salvation to outsiders who receive him with faith and joy.

Making Connections:

Journey to the Cross

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Tax Collectors

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Last week, we heard the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. In that story, the rich man learns that selfishness and taking advantage of others can be dangerous and that it is not always easy to repent. This week, we hear the story of Zacchaeus, found in Luke 18:31–19:10. In this well-known story, a tax collector named Zacchaeus realizes that how he gained his wealth has hurt people, and he repents after having an encounter with Jesus.

Story Summary:

Zacchaeus

Today's story has three different parts. In the first part of the story, Jesus foretells of his death and resurrection. In the second portion of the story, Jesus heals a man who was blind before he enters Jericho. The man asks Jesus to have mercy on him, and Jesus does; Jesus tells him that his faith has healed his blindness.

In the final part of the story, Jesus enters Jericho. A large crowd gathers, including the tax collector Zacchaeus. Because Zacchaeus is short, it is difficult for him to see Jesus, so Zacchaeus climbs a tree. Jesus passes by the tree and sees Zacchaeus, and then he invites himself over to Zacchaeus' house. Some people grumble because Jesus is going to the house of someone they consider a sinner. However, this experience of grace changes Zacchaeus; he repents and promises to give back four times what he has taken from other people, turning his selfishness into generosity. The story ends with Jesus saying that he has come to rescue those who are lost, bringing them into God's kingdom. Zacchaeus has experienced God's unconditional love, the salvation that Jesus brought him.

The Point

Jesus brings salvation to outsiders who receive him with faith and joy. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and tax collectors were not popular during Jesus' time. Because of the nature of their job, tax collectors would take more money than they needed. Many people saw them as outsiders. However, his encounter with Jesus changed Zacchaeus. Meeting and receiving Jesus into his home showed Zacchaeus true love and joy. Because of this, Zacchaeus repents and discovers the joy of God's kingdom that comes from knowing Jesus.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Tax Collectors

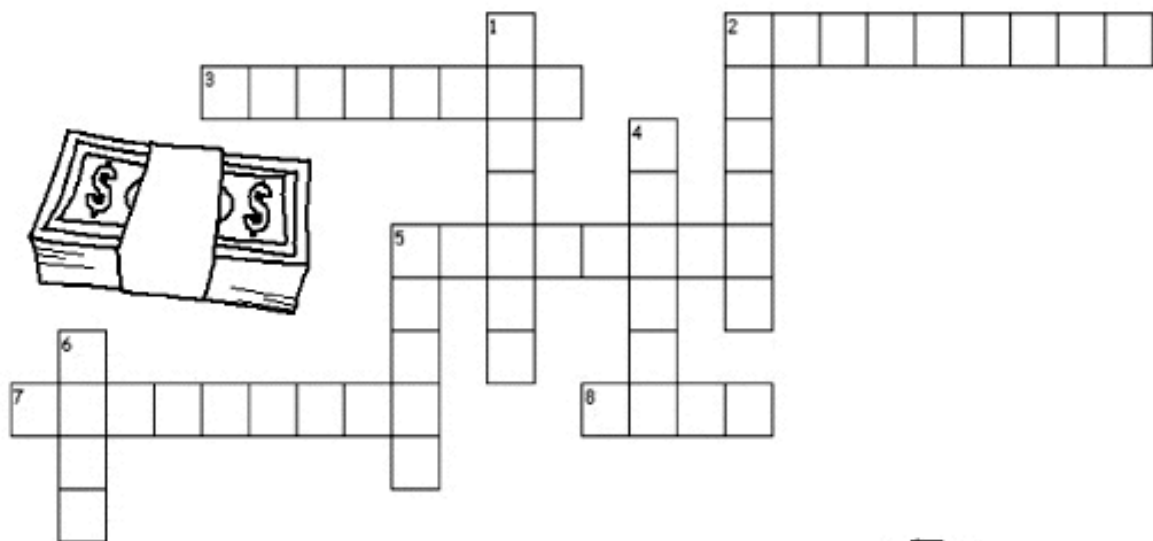
In Jesus' time, tax collectors worked for the oppressive Roman Empire. Tax collectors like Zacchaeus were seen as greedy and traitors to the Jewish people. They would take as much money as they wanted from people, paying the Roman government the amount that was due and keeping the rest for themselves. Collecting more money than the Roman government demanded was how they made a living; however, they often took a lot more than they needed, and the people could not do anything about it. It is significant that Jesus decided to visit with Zacchaeus. Jesus chose to visit the home of someone who was an outcast and disliked by others.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

In today's story, Zacchaeus repents after experiencing grace and realizing how his actions are hurting other people. One way in which people express repentance is through prayer. You may be familiar with a prayer of confession that is used in your church's worship service. In today's Living the Story activity, your class will practice praying their own prayers of confession.



Zacchaeus Crossword



Word list:

welcomed	short
salvation	four
collector	sinner
Jericho	people
sycamore	seek

Across

- Jesus said this had come to Zacchaeus' house that day.
- Jesus was ___ to come to Zacchaeus' house.
- Zacchaeus climbed this type of tree to see Jesus.
- This was Zacchaeus' occupation: tax ___.
- Jesus came to ___ and to save the lost.

Down

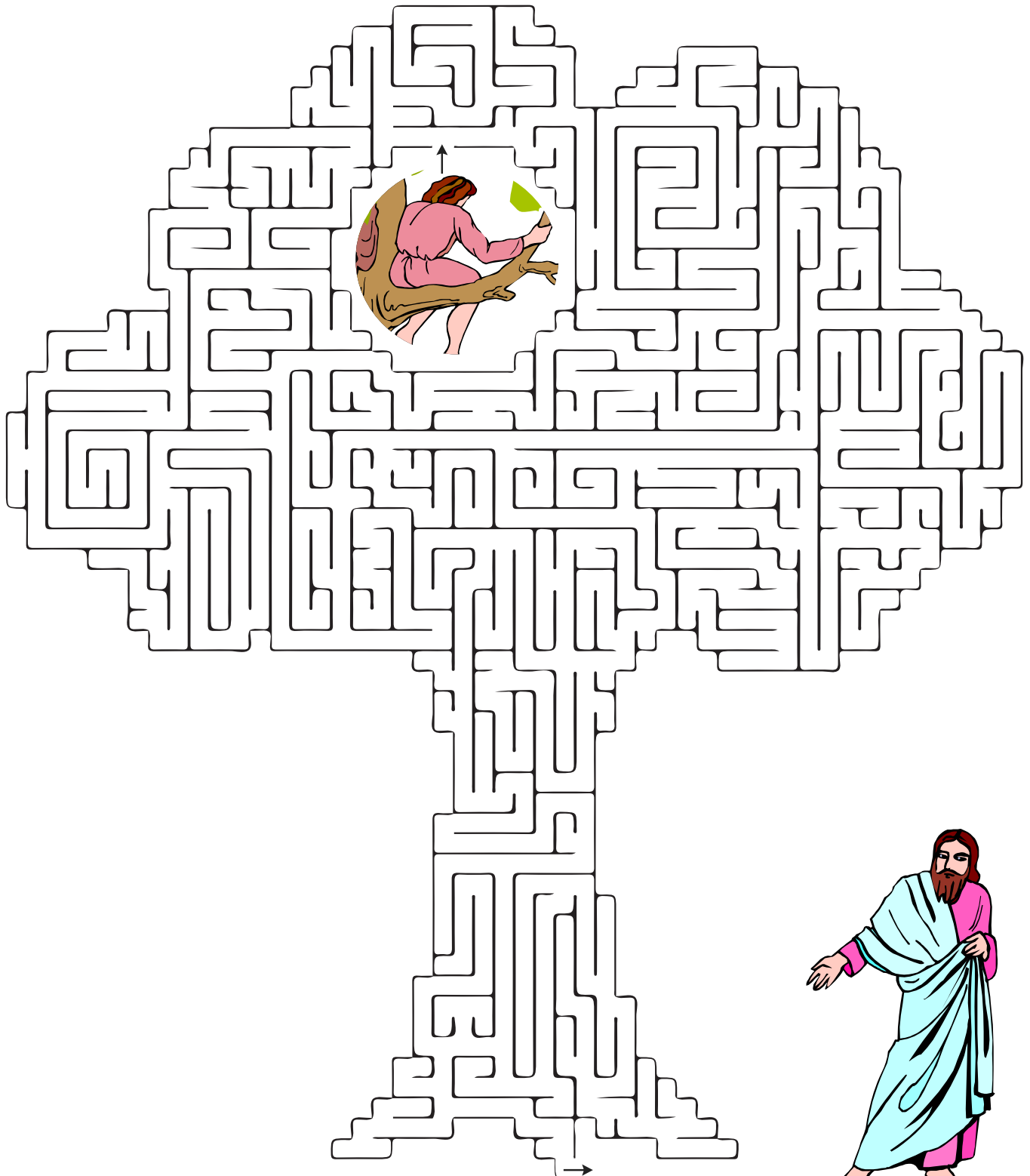
- This was the city where the story took place.
- The crowd was surprised Jesus would go to a house of this type of person.
- There were a lot of these surrounding Jesus.
- Zacchaeus wasn't tall but this.
- Zacchaeus didn't just pay people back but gave them ___ times more.

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Luke 19



Help Zacchaeus climb down from the tree so he can meet Jesus!



ZACCHAEUS IN THE SYCAMORE TREE

Can you place Zacchaens in a sycamore tree?



Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

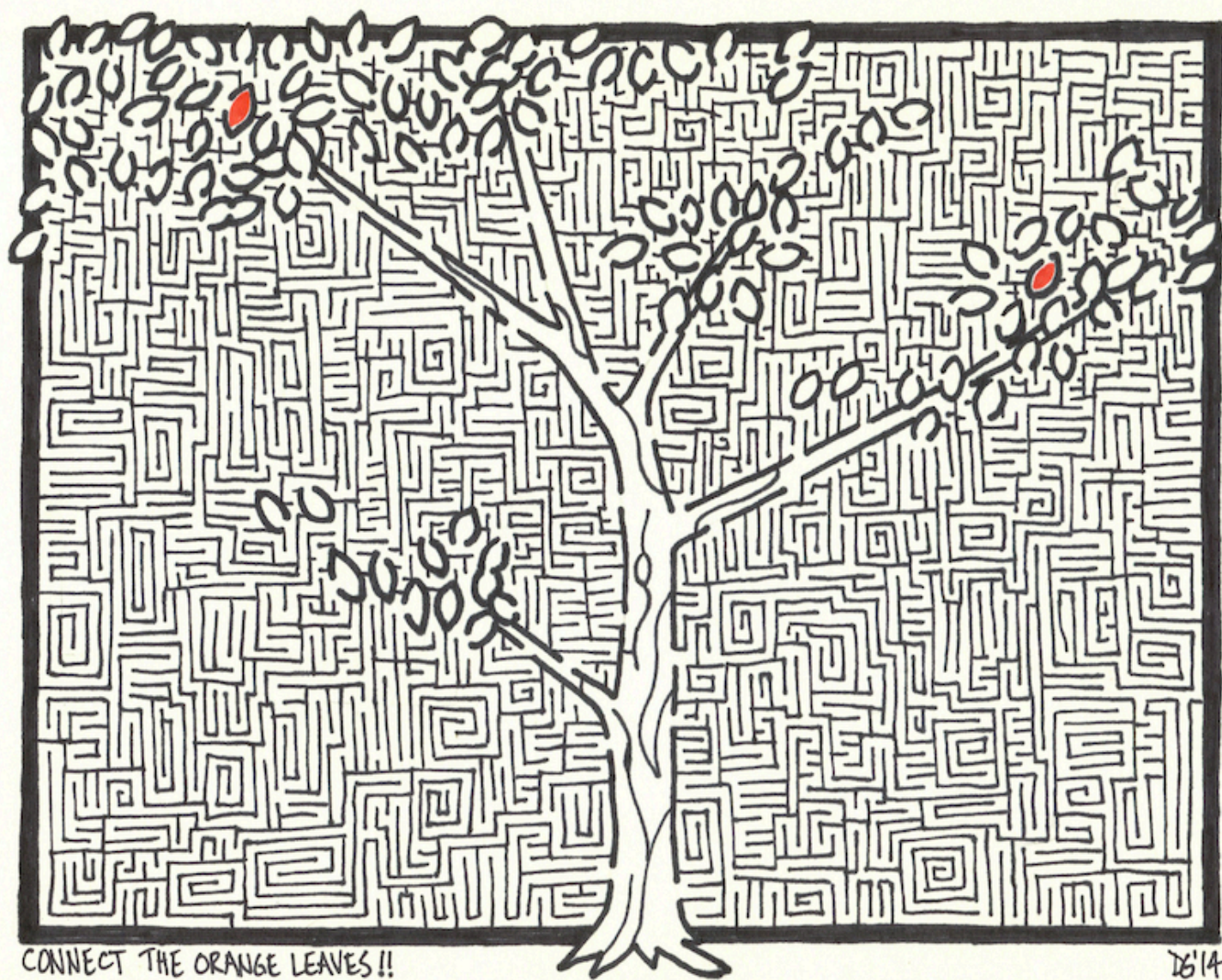
When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 19:1-10 (NIV).



J L P O S M S I N N E R E C T
E M W R S O Z F J W H M M A A
R Z E E M C H I E F O S I I X
I L Z N A N E Y P C W H T U O
C O M A E L H L L D C O R R L
H S Z M C L T E X O D R E B H
O T O L R C W H H W J T E I G
Z C S H Y B H P Y N T N C N U
S W B R O E R A T M G F R D E
T A P A G U V M E M Z N O R S
D K V J A S S D A U W D W F T
Y B X E A K D E O P S S D R P
C O L L E C T O R Q O N L P P
T Q X J N E C L I M B O Y T I
H E G I S E E K C X H E R A W

CLIMB	LOST	SAVE	SEEK	JERICO
CHIEF	WELCOME	HOUSE	WEALTHY	DOWN
TAX	CROWD	TREE	ZACCHAEUS	COLLECTOR
COME	POOR	SINNER	GUEST	SHORT



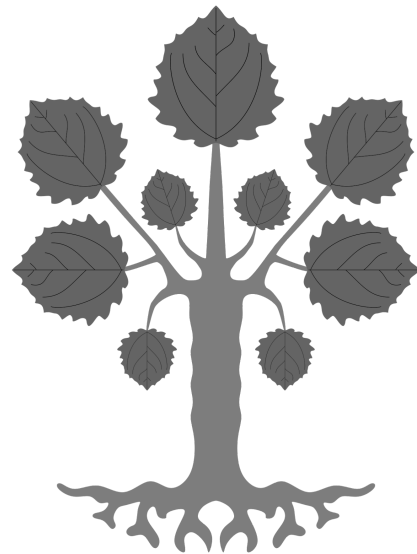
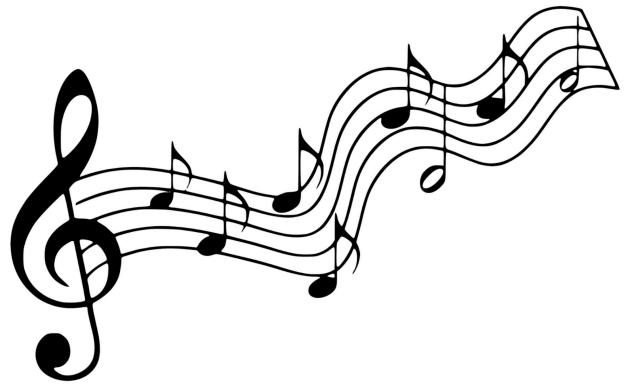
CONNECT THE ORANGE LEAVES !!

2014

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see

And when the Savior passed that way
He looked up in the tree
And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today!
For I'm going to your house today!'

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
But a happy man was he
For he had seen the Lord that day
And a happy man was he;
And a very happy man was he





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-30
Luke 18:31–19:10

LAST WEEK

Jesus tells a story of a rich man and a man who was poor named Lazarus. They both die, and while Lazarus is comforted, the rich man suffers. Each experiences the opposite of what happened in their lives (Luke 16:19-31).

THIS WEEK

Jesus teaches his disciples that he will soon suffer and die in Jerusalem. He then heals a man who is blind and accepts the repentance of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus (Luke 18:31–19:10).

THE POINT

Jesus brings salvation to outsiders who receive him with faith and joy.

STORY SUMMARY

Zacchaeus

A large crowd gathers when Jesus enters Jericho, including a tax collector, Zacchaeus, who was too short to see Jesus. Zacchaeus climbs a tree. Jesus sees Zacchaeus, and then he invites himself over to Zacchaeus' house. People grumble because Jesus is going to the house of a sinner. However, this experience of grace changes Zacchaeus; he repents and promises to give back four times what he has taken from other people. The story ends with Jesus saying that he has come to rescue those who are lost, bringing them into God's kingdom. Zacchaeus has experienced God's love, the salvation that Jesus brought him.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Tax Collectors

In Jesus' time, tax collectors worked for the oppressive Roman Empire. They would take as much money as they wanted from people. They only paid the Roman government the amount that was due, then kept the rest of the money for themselves. This was how they made a living; but they often took more than they needed. The people could not do anything about it. Jesus chose to visit the home of someone who was an outcast and disliked by others.

PRACTICE: PRAYER

Zacchaeus repents after experiencing grace and realizing how his actions hurt others. People can express repentance through prayer. There may be a prayer of confession used in your church's worship service. As a family, write your own prayer of confession and pray it together during the week.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey to great celebration. But later that week, Judas agrees to betray Jesus, Jesus shares a last supper with his disciples, and Jesus dies on a cross, mocked and rejected (Luke 19:29-40; 22:1-6, 14-23; 23:32-47).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Where do you see the message that “It is GOOD” in this Scripture?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

<p>Sunday—Read Luke 18:31–19:10 Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus leads him to repentance and grace. Tell the story of Zacchaeus to another friend or family member. What can we learn from this story?</p>
<p>Monday—Read Luke 19:11-27 The Parable of the Ten Pounds prepares us for the coming of God's kingdom. Try acting out the story with your family. What do you think this parable means?</p>
<p>Tuesday—Read Luke 20:1-8 Jesus responds to a question about his authority. Who are some people in your community who hold authority? Say a prayer for them today.</p>
<p>Wednesday—Read Luke 20:9-19 The Parable of the Wicked Tenants gives us a glimpse of the story that is to come. Compare this parable to the story of Jesus. Do you see any similarities? What might they be?</p>
<p>Thursday—Read Luke 20:20-26 We are commanded to give to God what belongs to God. Use your own piggy bank (or make one of your own) and set aside a little extra money this week to give to God. Why do we give offerings to God?</p>
<p>Friday—Read Luke 20:27-40 Jesus teaches about the future resurrection, that people will not only be alive again, but they will be better. What do you think this will be like? Draw a picture with your thoughts.</p>
<p>Saturday—Read Luke 21:1-4 We are commanded to give God our whole lives. What is one thing you can do to love and serve God today? Think of one thing and try it.</p>