

Sunday, March 29th – A Tree View

Bible Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Bible Story: Zacchaeus

Resources (next three pages)

A Tree View Opening

A Tree View Handout

Zacchaeus Coloring Page

Scripture Snapshot

Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector, anxiously waits the arrival of Jesus. Short of stature, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see the Savior. Despite criticism, Jesus invites Himself to the tax collector's home. Motivated by Christ's compassion, Zacchaeus confesses his sin and promises to make restitution.

Talking Points

This narrative takes place just a few days before Palm Sunday.

Even though Zacchaeus was looking, it was Jesus who found him, not the other way around.

Zacchaeus might have been small in stature, but his sins loomed large. By collecting taxes for the Roman government, he was seen as a traitor to his people. And even worse, he got rich by fraudulent practices against his own people. He might have been one of the most hated men in Jericho. Climbing a tree would have been a pretty humiliating thing for a man of such wealth to do. The same would have been true of him running to his house to welcome Jesus. In that day, men had to lift their robes away from their feet to climb or run, and that was considered humiliating.

Jesus' call to faith and forgiveness for Zacchaeus changed Zacchaeus dramatically. His heart was changed, and he immediately made some big changes in his life.

What does today's Bible account tell you about Zacchaeus? How did Zacchaeus show that he had become a follower of Christ?

What have you lost recently? How was the lost item found? We were also lost to sin, death, and the devil. How did Jesus find and save us?

Zacchaeus climbed into a sycamore fig tree so he could see Jesus over the crowd. Lift your child up on your shoulders so he or she can see how tall Zacchaeus would have felt in the tree.

Dig Deeper into the Bible Verse

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

"The Son of Man" is a name Jesus used for Himself. The people grumbled that Jesus was eating with Zacchaeus. But Jesus told the people who grumbled that He "came to seek and to save the lost." That means Jesus came to save sinners. It would be silly for a doctor to say, "I don't like sick people. I'm not going to go near them until they are better." No, people become doctors so they can help sick people get better. Zacchaeus had done bad things. He was sick with sin. But Jesus came and helped him with his sin sickness. Jesus forgave him.

We do bad things, too. We can't save ourselves. But Jesus came to earth to seek and to save the lost. He came to save us! How did He do this? Yes, He died on the cross and rose again to pay for the bad things we do. He forgives our sins and gives us the Holy Spirit so we can be His children and show love to others. Knowing Jesus loved him made Zacchaeus happy. It made him want to be loving and kind to others. Jesus' love makes us happy, too! How can we show love and kindness toward others, too?

Other Ideas

Song – [Zacchaeus was a wee little man](#) (1 min)

Song – [God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It](#) (under 2 min)

LESSON 4 OPENING

A TREE VIEW: ZACCHAEUS

Have you ever played hide-and-seek? In the game, one person is “it.” Whoever is “it” shuts his eyes while the others hide. If this child (*show the doll*) were playing hide-and-seek, he might hide behind me. Where else could he hide? *Allow students to answer.*

In our Bible lesson for today, a man named Zacchaeus played a different kind of game with Jesus. Instead of hide-and-seek, he played show-and-seek. Instead of hiding from Jesus, he showed himself to Jesus. Because you or I might try to hide from Jesus sometimes, let’s talk about the story so we can also learn to play show-and-seek with Jesus.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and a rich man. From what he said after he met Jesus, we know that he was rich because he had cheated others. We also know he was short. Jesus came to the town where Zacchaeus lived. Since Zacchaeus had done bad things, he might have tried to hide from Jesus. Because he was short, he could have hidden in the crowd or behind that sycamore tree, and no one would have noticed him. But he knew Jesus was the Savior who forgave sins. He wanted his sins forgiven. He wanted to see Jesus. Instead of hiding from Jesus, he climbed up into the tree. There he saw Jesus. *Use the doll to show how he could have hidden but instead crawled up high to see Jesus.*

Because Zacchaeus was up in the tree so he could see Jesus, Jesus could also see him. Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus, and then Jesus asked if He could go to his house for dinner. Zacchaeus said he was sorry for his sins and asked for Jesus’ help. Jesus forgave all his sins.

When we do something wrong, we sometimes try to hide from Jesus. If Jesus is the one who is “it” in hide-and-seek, He always finds us. He can see anywhere. He is always with us.

The problem is that when we hide from Jesus, we cannot see Him. When we hide from Him, we can’t hear Him tell us that He loves us and forgives us. When we hide from Him, we can’t follow Him and be His children.

So instead of playing hide-and-seek with Jesus, let’s be like Zacchaeus. Let’s play show-and-seek. When we go to seek Jesus, we also show ourselves to Him. When we seek Him, we know He has already found us.

You can show yourself to Jesus when you come to church and Sunday School, when you pray and read your Bible, and when you let others know that you believe in the Savior. You show yourself to Jesus when you show others that you believe in Him and love Him.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You that all sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Help me never to hide from You or Your Word. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Luke 19:1–10

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus loves sinners.

FAITH FOCUS

The Seventh Commandment

LAW & GOSPEL

We ignore our own sin and point out the sinfulness of others.

Jesus came to seek and to save us and all who are lost in sin.

BIBLE VERSE

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

VISUAL HELPS

A doll or stick figure of a child

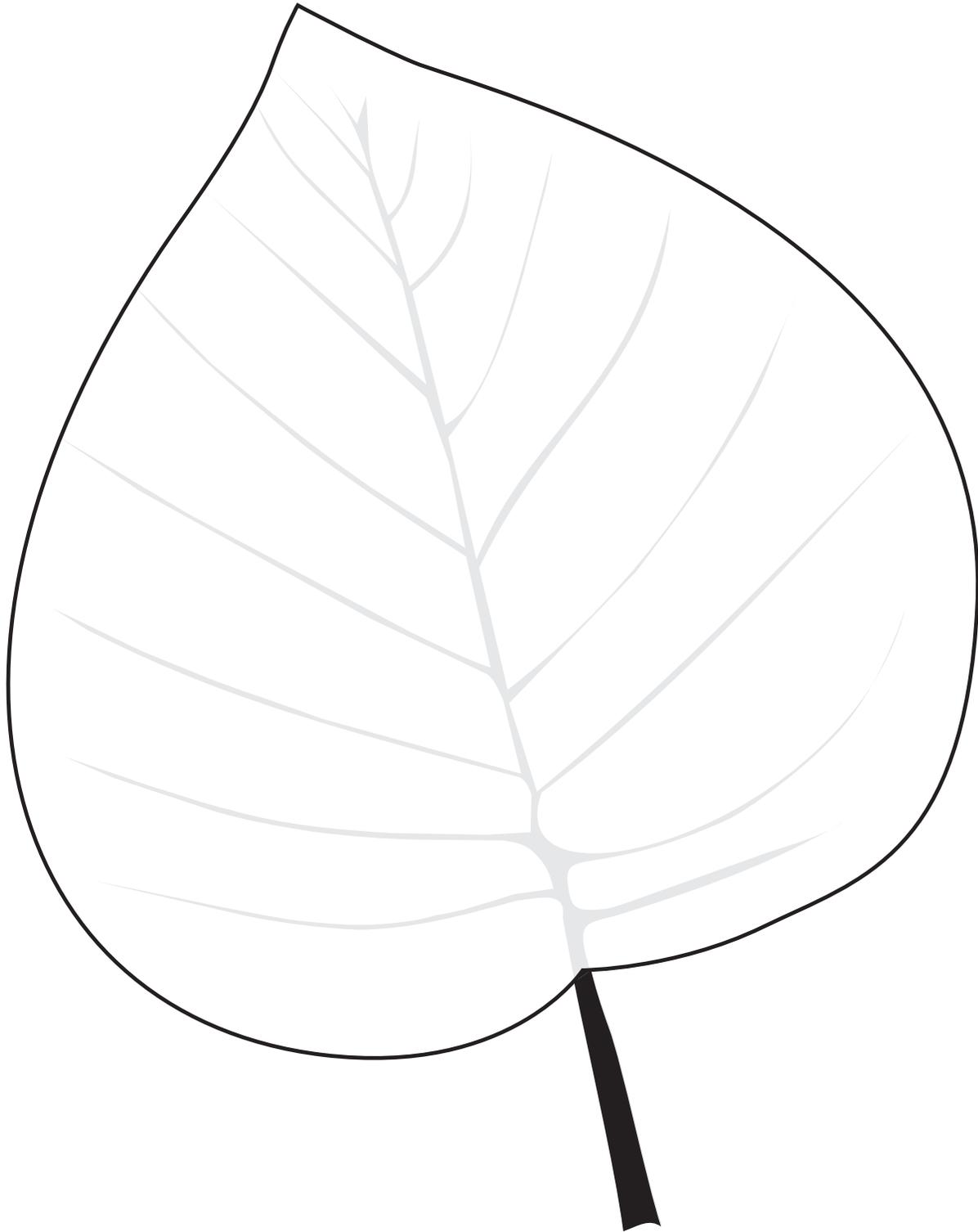
A TREE VIEW—ZACCHAEUS

Unit 3, Lesson 4

Jesus Came to Save the Lost

Jesus loves you. He came to save you from your sins.

Directions: Write your first name across the center of the sycamore fig tree leaf below. Add pictures or symbols around your name that tell about Jesus' relationship with you.



**Zacchaeus climbs
a tree to see Jesus.**
Luke 19:1-9

