

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 21: Zacchaeus Gets Found (from Luke 19:1-10)

To the Teacher:

Though a familiar kids story, this is actually a true story of a man who was lost and shunned from society, being accepted and loved by Jesus. Pray we as a church find joy in that news!

- **Big Idea:** Jesus came to seek out and save those who are lost.
- **Question:** Have you ever been lost? How did that make you feel? OR Have you ever heard a story about someone who got lost and couldn't find their way back home? Today we are going to learn about a man who was lost because he couldn't see past all of his money.
- **Starter:**
 - Here is a cartoon video: <https://youtu.be/5BjtbJFz2ug> OR
 - Play a game of 'hide and seek'. Talk about how Jesus knew exactly where Zacchaeus was and called him by name. While we think we are hiding, Jesus knows exactly where we are at and wants to be with us.
- **Story:** from Luke 19:1-10
[READ] "The Man Who Didn't Have Any Friends (None)" from The Jesus Storybook Bible page 264

OR

There once was a man who lived in Jericho called Zacchaeus. Now, Zacchaeus was a tax collector. And he wasn't just any tax collector in Jericho, he was a chief tax collector. His job was to collect money that people had to pay to the king. But Zacchaeus took more money from people than he was supposed to. If someone was supposed to pay one coin to the king, Zacchaeus made them pay two coins, and he would keep one of the coins for himself. That is called stealing. Zacchaeus was rich and had lots of money, but nobody wanted to be his friend because he stole money from them. Zacchaeus's heart was lost in greed and power.

Now, one day Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem when he was passing through Jericho. When he was passing through, Zacchaeus heard about it and wanted to see Jesus in person. The Bible says he was a very short man, so when he got to the road where Jesus was walking he couldn't see anything because of all of the people crowded around. So he had an idea.

He ran up ahead and climbed a tree so that he would be able to see Jesus. When Jesus was walking by the tree, he stopped, looked up to see Zacchaeus in the tree, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today I have to stay at your house." Zacchaeus got super excited and hurried down the tree and welcomed Jesus.

Now when everyone else saw what had just happened, they got super angry. They said, "He is going to Zacchaeus's house?! He is a thief and a sinner!"

When Zacchaeus heard this, he stood up and told Jesus, "I will give half of everything I own to the poor. And if I have cheated or stolen anything from anyone, I will give them back four times the amount that I stole!" When Jesus heard this he said, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

You see, Zacchaeus's heart was no longer lost. His heart had been found by Jesus. Jesus saw through all of the money, the big house, fancy clothes, and fancy camels and found his heart. Jesus knew all of those things were not making Zacchaeus happy. Jesus was the only thing that brought Zacchaeus joy.

- **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you that there is nowhere we can hide that you can't find us. Thank you that nothing can be hidden from you. You see all of us and you love us. You want to be with us, forever. Thank you that even when we think we are lost and we don't know where to go or what to do, you will never leave us or abandon us.

- **Craft:**

This blog has a couple different fun and easy crafts to do in class: <http://faithsprouts.blogspot.com/2015/02/jesus-changed-zacchaeus-heart.html>

- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Listen: Ask the Spirit this week what things are getting in the way of you seeing Jesus. Ask him to help you remove those so you can see Jesus more clearly and find joy in him! Sit and listen for the Spirit to respond.