



STORIES OF JESUS JR/SR: Jesus and Zaccheus

Date: Sunday July 19, 2026 **Teachers:** Greg M, Nate B, Caleb N

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matt.14:13-21 **KEY PASSAGE:** Heb. 1:3

Props: *bring from home: purse/bag (Greg), play money (Nate)

at centre: activity sheets

INTRO BIBLE STORY JR & SR COMBINED: materials: whiteboard/marker

Greg

This summer our Stories of Jesus series has been highlighting stories that reflect the character of Jesus. When we look at Jesus we are able to see God. Jesus is God the son. We are learning from the stories of Jesus, to show us what God is like.

Ask kids to come up and draw or act out the stories for the others to guess of the lessons we have learned so far (give them a clue):

- 1) **Jesus calling Peter:** (overflowing fish) Ask them what it tells us about Jesus- He is generous, he is welcoming a multitude into God's family
- 2) **Jesus calms the storm:** Jesus has the power to command nature, the chaotic sea represents the darkness of humanity's evil, Jesus spoke and the wind and waves obey, He gave his life to bring order to the chaotic disordered world.
- 3) **Jesus feeds 5000:** Jesus was moved with compassion and when the people were hungry he wanted to meet their needs. He has power over matter (loaves and fish). He met our greatest need by giving His life for us. He is the bread of life. Let's see what we learn about Jesus in today's story, listen closely to see what we learn about God through this story of Jesus

BIBLE STORY VIDEO: Jesus and Zaccheus

KEY PASSAGE VERSE materials: (white board, marker)

Nate

(leave the underlined words blank and see if the kids can remember the words)

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." Hebrews 1:3 When we look at Jesus we see God.

SING A SONG: "Zaccheus was a wee little man"

Nate

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Greg

What was Zacchaeus's job? (chief tax collector, Luke 19:2)

What did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus? (a sycamore tree, Luke 19:4)

Where did Jesus tell Zacchaeus He was going to stay? (at Zacchaeus's house, Luke 19:5)

Why were the other people upset that Jesus was staying with Zacchaeus? (Zacchaeus was a sinner, Luke 19:6)

How much of his possessions did Zacchaeus offer to give to the poor? (half, Luke 19:8)

Jesus came to seek and to save whom? (the lost, Luke 19:10)

Jesus said in this story he didn't come to save the righteous but sinners, the Bible says no one is righteous. Everyone is lost in sin before meeting Jesus. Even the people in the story who disliked Zacchaeus because of his stealing were sinners. They may not have known it, but Jesus came to save them too! Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus forever. Think about the ways Zacchaeus changed as a result of experiencing Jesus' love for him.

When we see Jesus and trust in Him we become new creations! Part of our new life with God is a desire to be generous to show the love of God to others. We don't have to cling to our possessions or money because we know that in Jesus we have the only thing we really need: life with God.

ACTIVITY: "Pay the tax" materials: (*bring purse/bag from home and play money)

Nate

Hand out play money to the class, use a purse/bag and give each child a chance to be the tax collector and collect the money, and say "pay your tax". In the Bible tax collectors were seen as bad people because they took people's money and kept some for themselves. When Zacchaeus met Jesus it changed him, and he took his money (show it all) and gave it to the people who needed it, people who were hungry or had no homes, no clothes.

Jesus transforms us so that we use our money to care for those who have no food, no homes.

Show the money and demonstrate that Zacchaeus went from saying MINE to YOURS, and that's what Jesus does for us too. (*talk to kids how we like to say MINE, but Jesus shows us He has given us His life, so we can say YOURS)

ACTIVITY: "Living generous" materials: (marker, whiteboard)

Greg

Ask the kids to help you make a list of how we can live as generous people, go from saying MINE to yours with our material things.

ACTIVITY: Hide-and-seek

Caleb

Select one kid to be the seeker. She will close her eyes and count to 30 slowly. While she counts, kids must hide within the room. When she reaches 30, she will open her eyes and warn kids that she is coming. That game is familiar to most of us, but it takes on a new meaning when we think about God's Word. Jesus is God's promised Savior. People waited and waited for Jesus to come, all the while straying further and further from God. Jesus seeks us out, like He sought out Zacchaeus, ***we don't want to be found, but Jesus finds us and rescues us!***

ACTIVITY: "Count the coins" materials: (3 sets of activity sheets in folder)

All

Divide the class into 3 groups and have them compete to complete the activity sheet first.

COLOURING SHEET/SNACK/ FREE PLAY (Have kids colour together for first 5 minutes, and then if some want to play they may be dismissed for free play)