



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 47: Zacchaeus

Scripture

Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse

So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. James 2:17 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that faith is necessary to salvation.

Understand that true faith is expressed in good deeds.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

As we finish up our study on making disciples, let's take a look at one story that wraps up a lot of what we have been learning this past year.

We find Jesus traveling again. This time He was traveling towards Jerusalem, a difficult, uphill journey¹ that would lead to His crucifixion. On the way, though, Jesus entered Jericho. The people of Jericho heard that He was coming and began to line the streets.

There was a man named Zacchaeus who lived in Jericho. "He was a chief tax collector and was very rich." (Luke 19:2b NIV) Zacchaeus wasn't just any other tax collector; he was in charge of many other tax collectors.

Zacchaeus had also heard that Jesus was coming and he wanted to see Jesus. Who knows, maybe Zacchaeus had heard Jesus' parable about the tax collector and the religious leader (Luke 18:9-14). He might have even heard about the tax collector, Matthew, who was now one of the twelve who traveled around with Jesus.¹

There was a problem, though. Zacchaeus was a short man. He couldn't see above the crowd that lined the streets. To make that even more difficult, tax collectors were not well liked. The religious leader even said that tax collectors had no part with the people of God,¹ so no one offered to let Zacchaeus come stand in front of them. That didn't stop Zacchaeus, though. Zacchaeus had an idea. His idea wasn't very dignified, but Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. How many men do you know are as important as Zacchaeus who would run past a crowd and climb a tree? Amazing!

The tree that Zacchaeus climbed was good for climbing. It had short trunks and a lot of branches. Zacchaeus would have climbed it quickly; he sat there to wait for Jesus to pass by.

"When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today.'" (Luke 19:5 CEV) Does it surprise you that, in the large crowd, Jesus knew where Zacchaeus was? Did you notice that Jesus knew his name?

Zacchaeus didn't make excuses. He "came down at once and welcomed [Jesus] gladly." (Luke 19:6 NIV)

The crowd saw what happened and they began to grumble and complain. They were shocked that Jesus would choose to "be the guest of a

Application

Our memory verse says, "So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."
(James 2:17 NLT)

Just saying that you believe there is a God isn't enough. True faith in God shows itself in obedience.

We saw the faith of Zacchaeus by his actions. How about you? Have you trusted in God; are you His follower?

If you said yes, are you acting on what you believe? Is your faith producing good deeds? Are you obeying the things you know that God wants you to do?

Maybe you are thinking, "I don't really know what God wants me to do." A look at the Ten

Commandments is a good start. (Exodus 20:1-17) Does God have first place in your life? Do you respect your parents? Do you steal? Do you lie about others? The Sermon on the Mount is another good place to look. (Matthew 5-7)

If there is no obedience in your life, let's talk.

'sinner.'" (Luke 19:7b NIV) But Zacchaeus trusted the Lord. He was willing to do what the rich young ruler wouldn't do. Because his heart had been changed by God, Zacchaeus offered to give half of what he owned to the poor. With the other half, he was willing to pay back anyone he had cheated. He promised to give them back four times the amount he had taken. This was more than the law would make him pay, but he offered to pay it anyway.² Zacchaeus wasn't simply having Jesus in his home and saying he believed in Him. Zacchaeus was acting on what he believed. And so, "Jesus said to Zacchaeus, 'Today salvation has come to your house. . . The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.'" Luke 19:9a, 10 NIV)

Have you trusted in God; do you believe that He sent His one and only Son to die in your place, paying the debt of your sin? If not, let's talk. You see, Zacchaeus was lost until he met Jesus and put his faith (trust) in Him.

God provided salvation for all people in the death of Jesus on the cross. In this series of lessons, we have looked at Jesus' journey to the cross. We have looked at His life and His teachings. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he invited the disciples, and us, to be a part of His plan for the world, to go and baptize and teach others. We are privileged that God invites us to be a part of what He is doing, sharing with others and making disciples. Are you a part of what God is doing? If you are, keep up the good work. If not, why not start today?

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Luke 19". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament." <<http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=lu&chapter=019>>. Abilene Christian University Press. Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

² Barclay, William. *The Daily Study Bible Series: The Gospel of Luke*. The Westminster Press: Philadelphia. 1975. pp. 233-235.



Teachers:

Bring construction paper. Cut out a tree as you tell the story. Cut out the shape of a man from the top of the tree.

There was a man named Zacchaeus who lived in a town called Jericho. He was a chief tax collector. He was very rich.

Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to town. He wanted to see Jesus. There was a problem, though. There were a lot of people standing by the road waiting to see Jesus, too. And Zacchaeus was a short man. He couldn't see above the crowd that lined the streets.

That didn't stop Zacchaeus, though. Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. Sycamore trees were good for climbing. They had short trunks and a lot of branches. Zacchaeus sat in the tree to wait for Jesus to pass by.

"When Jesus got there, He looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today.'" (Luke 19:5 CEV) Jesus knew where Zacchaeus was! Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name!

Zacchaeus "came down at once and welcomed [Jesus] gladly." (Luke 19:6 NIV)

The crowd saw what happened and they started to grumble and complain. Why was Jesus going to the house of a 'sinner?' But Zacchaeus trusted Jesus. Zacchaeus offered to give half of his money to the poor. With the other half, he wanted to pay back anyone he had cheated.

"Jesus said to Zacchaeus, 'Today salvation has come to your house. . . The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.'" Luke 19:9a, 10 NIV)



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Review the memory verse. Make an acrostic with the word F-A-I-T-H. Write out good deeds that begin with each letter of the word “faith.”
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring fig cookies for a snack today. Explain that the Sycamore tree is also called a mulberry-fig tree with fig-like fruit.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Find Jericho on a map of Israel. Use a topographical map, if possible, paying attention to the elevation from Jericho to Jerusalem. Trace Jesus’ route to Jerusalem.
- The meaning of the name Zacchaeus is “pure.” Zacchaeus was pure and honest before God. Do you live up to the meaning of your name? If you don’t know the meaning, look it up. Be sure to discuss with your students that they go by the name “Christian” if they believe in God and follow Him. How well do they live up to the name “Christian?”
- Sing “Zacchaeus Was a Wee, Little Man,” “I Will,” “Trust and Obey,” “Amazing Love,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Measure the height of your students. Use a long strip of paper from the roll of an adding machine.

So you see,

FAITH

by itself
isn't enough.

Unless it produces

GOOD DEEDS,

it is dead and useless.

James 2:17

Trace the letters.

TRUST

JESUS

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

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

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough.
Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”
James 2:17



Word Search

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

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

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Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

ZACCHAEUS

RUN

CLIMB

COME DOWN

YOUR HOUSE



Preschool Word Search

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

JESUS

ZACCHAEUS

RUN

CLIMB

COME DOWN

YOUR HOUSE