

# Zacchaeus

## Story Suggestion:

*Luke 19:1-10*

The story of Zacchaeus shows Jesus' divinity and His humanity. Zacchaeus, being a small man, climbed into a tree to see Jesus, because the crowd around Him was so large. Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name and called him down from the sycamore tree. Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down because He wanted to go to his house that very day! Zacchaeus, who was a greedy tax collector, was so moved by the Lord's love and forgiveness that he said he would return the money he had stolen, and give many of his possessions to the poor.

## Game Ideas:

### *Biggest and Smallest*

#### **Directions:**

Divide the children into two teams, one being the "Biggest Specialists" and the other being the "Smallest Specialists." Pick out an object such as a book, and tell one team member from the "Biggest" group to find the biggest book in the room, and one team member from the "Smallest" group to find the smallest book in the room. Try having them search for other items like dolls, blocks, crayons, etc. Have the teams switch roles, if there is time.

### *Career Charades*

#### **Directions:**

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. Have a child come up to you and whisper what he or she wants to be when they grow up. Have them act out what they want to be, and see if the rest of the class can guess what they are. You can help each child with actions, if they need help. Give each child a turn at acting.

## Snack Ideas:

### *Dirt Snack*

#### **Ingredients:**

2 cups milk  
1 package chocolate instant pudding  
1 (8 oz). Cool Whip  
1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed  
Clear plastic cups

#### **Directions:**

Pour milk into a large mixing bowl.  
Add pudding mix.  
Beat with whisk until well blended, 1 to 2 minutes.  
Let stand for 5 minutes.  
Stir in whipped topping and half of the crushed cookies.  
Place 1 tablespoon crushed cookies into bottom of cups.  
Fill cups 3/4 full with pudding mixture.  
Top with remaining crushed cookies.  
Refrigerate for 1 hour.

### *White Chocolate Bark*

#### **Ingredients:**

2 pounds white chocolate  
2 cups roasted peanuts  
2 cups small pretzel sticks, broken

#### **Directions:**

Cover baking sheet with waxed paper.  
Melt white chocolate on stove or in microwave.  
Stir in pecans and pretzels.  
Quickly spread onto prepared sheet. Cool.  
Break into pieces.

## *Song Idea:*

### ***"Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"***

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 as the Savior passed him by, he looked up in the tree, and he said,  
"Zacchaeus, you come down from there; for I'm going to your house today,  
For I'm going to your house today."  
Zacchaeus came down from that tree, as happy as he could be,  
He gave his money to the poor, and said:  
"What a better man I'll be."



## Art Center Ideas:

### ***Zacchaeus in a Tree***

*(A helper is recommended for this project.)*

#### **Materials:**

Brown and blue construction paper  
Crayons  
Glue sticks  
Scissors  
Pencil

#### **Directions:**

Give each child a piece of brown construction paper. Trace the child's forearm and outstretched hand onto the construction paper. Cut it out. This is a tree. Give each child a piece of blue construction. Have them glue their "tree" to the blue construction paper (representing the sky). Let the children draw a man sitting in the tree. This will be Zacchaeus. Write the following verse (or another verse of your choice) on the bottom of each child's drawing: "Today salvation has come to your house." Luke 19:9a

## Suggested Prayer:

"Thank you, God, for letting us know you. Thank you for taking care of us, too. We love you with all of our hearts, and all of our minds, too! Amen."