

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Bible Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Date: 7/26/26

Age: 2's/3's

1st Service

Memory Verse:

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:6

Jesus...

Welcomes

Schedule

- **Arrival/Attendance/Directed Play.....8:55-9:10**
- **Clean Up and Gather For Story.....9:10-9:15**
- **Bible Story.....9:15-9:30**
- **Craft/Coloring Page;.....9:30-9:45**
- **Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer.....9:45-10:00**
- **Snack Time at Tables.....10:00-10:15**
- **Free Choice Play.....10:15-10:45**

Notes and Reminders

We are so excited to have you join us in discipling our PreK and Kindergarten children as we journey through the life of Christ this summer! We encourage you to pray for the children's hearts to be open to new understanding of why we love and obey God!

////// **SUMMER SUNDAYS 2026**

SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

“Zacchaeus was a wee little man ...”

This line from a popular children’s song is lighthearted and catchy, but it can make Zacchaeus seem more innocent than he likely was. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. In Jewish culture, a tax collector was the kind of person families warned their children about. People thought of tax collectors as thieves and extortionists—people who had betrayed the Jews to work with the Romans.

And yet, chief tax collector as he was, Zacchaeus became a conduit of one of Jesus’ most beautiful moments of mercy and grace. Luke writes that Zacchaeus “was trying to see who Jesus was.” Something inside Zacchaeus was stirring, and he wanted answers. But the crowd blocked Zacchaeus’ view, so he did something about it: he climbed a sycamore tree. He put himself in a place to see Jesus more clearly.

Our spiritual lives often require similar action. We must learn to constantly position ourselves to see Jesus more clearly by leaning into Scripture and spending time alone with God. We make time for prayer and for fellowship with other believers who encourage and challenge us. We guard our hearts as we choose what content to consume. These disciplines don’t make Jesus love us more; they simply help us be in a better position to see and obey Him.

True obedience involves trusting Jesus and doing what He says. We don’t negotiate the terms. We move when He speaks. Our obedience becomes a blank check, already signed, ready for Him to fill in however He desires. That kind of surrender is where transformation begins. This week, similar to how Zacchaeus climbed the tree, help put your kids in the best position to see Jesus so that He might lead them to repentance and transform their hearts.

OUTLINE



Arrival/Attendance/ Directed Play

8:55-9:10

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door. Set up the activities and introduce the children to the lesson through these activities. You may choose to set up different activity stations around the room, or do each activity as a group.

'I Am Special' Song

- Teach everyone the words and motions from this song and sing it together!
 - I am special (Point to yourself)
 - I am special. Don't you see? (Make binoculars with your fingers)
 - Don't you see? Someone very special (Put hands to the side, palm up)
 - Someone very special,
 - 'cause God (Point to heaven) made me (Point to yourself)
 - God made me!
- SAY What a fun song to start our morning with! This song reminds me that God always loves each one of us! Today, we are going to hear a story about a man named Zacchaeus. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though other people were mad at him! He welcomed Zacchaeus!

Where Are You?

- Lay out the different colored trees and hide a paper Zacchaeus under one tree. Encourage the children to take turns guessing which tree Zacchaeus is hiding in.
- SAY In our story today, a man named Zacchaeus climbed up a tree so that he could see Jesus! When we were looking for Zacchaeus behind these trees, we had to guess where he was because we didn't know! But Jesus didn't have to guess where Zacchaeus was- Jesus knew exactly where to look!





Clean Up and Gather for Story

9:10-9:15

Invite the children to begin cleaning up toys and putting away their activities at 9:10. Then remind them to meet at the carpet for Bible story time. Remind the children that we are going to do our best to be good listeners.

Bible Story

9:15-9:30

Welcome Song

- Welcome all the children by singing their welcome song
- (Tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star)
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
- First let's clap our hands like so
- Then reach down and touch our toes
- Welcome, Welcome Everyone
- Now you're here Let's have some fun
 - You can call a group of children names to welcome them and they can stand up and wave if you'd like.

The words from today's story are written below. They are taken from pages 413-417 in the Beginner's Bible (2005/2016 edition). Feel free to use the printed images in your bin or the physical Bible in your room to tell the story.

A Short Man

- People crowded the streets to see Jesus. Zacchaeus wanted to see, too, but he was too short. So he climbed up a tree
 - As Jesus was passing by, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house." Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree.
 - Zacchaeus was a tax collector. His job was to get the tax money from the people and give it to the king. Nobody liked him. He was surprised but happy that Jesus wanted to come to his house!
 - A crowd of people stood outside the house. They grumbled, "Why is Jesus in there?"
 - Zacchaeus told Jesus, "I will give money to the poor. And I will pay back anyone I have cheated. In fact, I will give them back more money than I took." Jesus was happy that Zacchaeus was going to make things right.
- 

Craft/Coloring Page

9:30-9:45

After the story, have the children go to their tables and prepare for a craft to go along with the lesson. Our **BIG IDEA** of the week is: **Jesus Welcomes!**

Give each child a tree craft sheet and paper Zacchaeus. Give each child a half sheet of green construction paper. Allow the children to tear the paper scraps into "leaves." Spread glue across the tree branches and stick the "leaves" onto the branches. Help the toddlers glue "Zacchaeus" onto the tree as well.

SAY What a beautiful tree! The Bible tells us that Zacchaeus climbed a tall tree to see Jesus. Did Zacchaeus get to see Jesus? Yes, he did! Jesus walked by, looked up, and told Zacchaeus to come down. Jesus forgave Zacchaeus' sins. Jesus came to forgive us, too, when we believe in Him.



As children finish, distribute the coloring page with today's story on the back for children to continue coloring. Have the children place both the craft and coloring sheet in their bin when they are finished.

Songs/Memory Verse/Prayer

9:45-10:00

There is a list of songs for today's lesson on the TV. Use the directions located with the remote to access them.

Prayer (Use there words or your own to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Dear Jesus, thank you for loving and welcoming everyone! We pray that you would help us be friends with the people we meet and show them your love. In your name we pray, Amen.



Memory Verse

- “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” John 14:6
- Remind kids that our story today shows us how Jesus shared the truth with the Samaritan woman! We know he is the **Messiah** and it is good to follow Him.
 - I am the way- point forward with both hands
 - the truth- hold your hands together like a book
 - and the life- Hold your hands over your head and wiggle your fingers
- This is our third week learning John 14:6. Say each section of the verse separately and teach the children the motions that go along with it. Practice the verse section by section with the children several times, then say the verse all together with the motions several times. Children learn through repetition! You may also find it helpful to keep the children engaged by moving around as you practice the verse (say it standing up, sitting down, walking around the room like a parade, etc.)

Snack Time at Tables

10:00-10:15

Prior to serving the snack have the children use hand sanitizer before choosing a seat at the table. Each child will have veggie straws on a napkin and a small cup of water. **NOTE:** some children with allergies will have their own snack or drink...parents usually remind shepherds of this at drop off. If a question, please contact Kid Min Staff in hallways. Thanks.

While the children are eating their snack, please read the read aloud book that is in the bin labeled Read Aloud book for snack time. Thanks.

Free Choice Play

10:15-10:40

Once the snack and read aloud are finished, the children may choose free play until their parents come to pick them up.

At dismissal, please make sure to check the child's tag number to match the parent's tag. Have the children take home any papers from their bin. Finally, check them off the attendance as being picked up (the last column for the date).

Thanks so much for shepherding the little ones this week. We appreciate you!





A Short Man

Luke 19:1-10

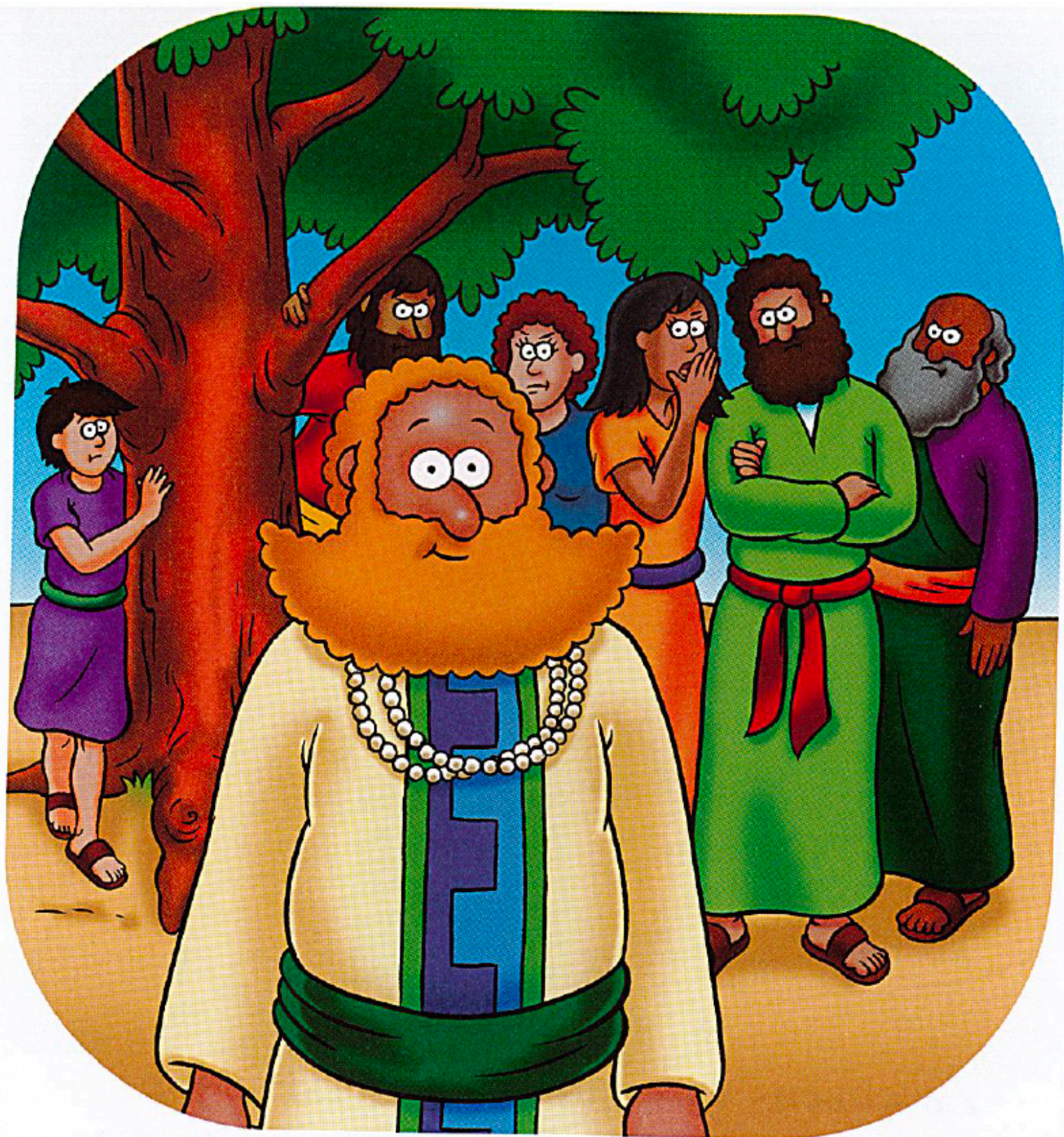
People crowded the streets to see Jesus.
Zacchaeus wanted to see, too,
but he was too short.
So he climbed up a tree.



As Jesus was passing by, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go to your house.” Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree.



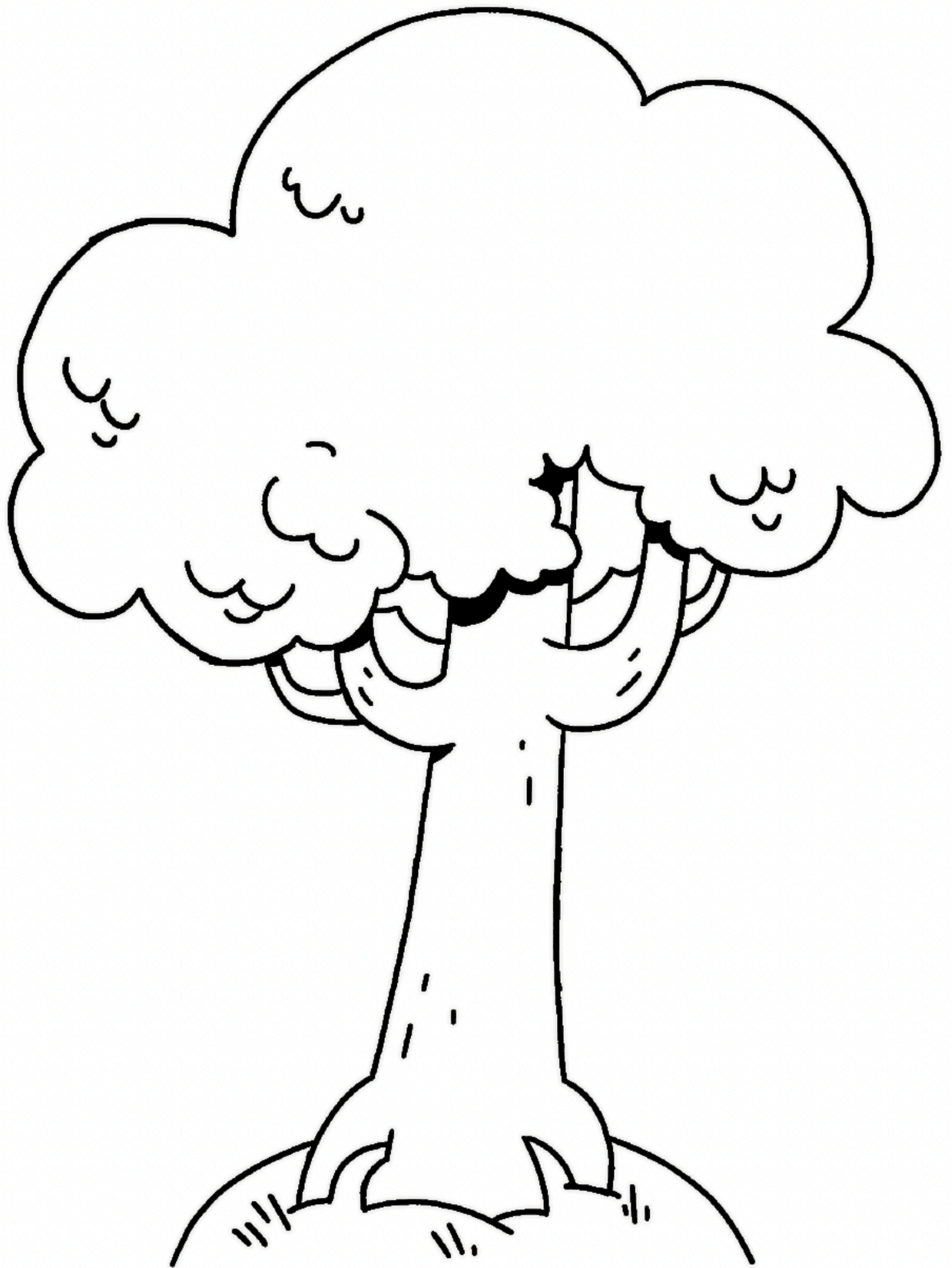
Zacchaeus was a tax collector. His job was to get the tax money from the people and give it to the king. Nobody liked him. He was surprised but happy that Jesus wanted to come to *his* house!



A crowd of people stood outside the house. They grumbled, “Why is Jesus in *there*?”



Zacchaeus told Jesus, “I will give money to the poor. And I will pay back anyone I have cheated. In fact, I will give them back more money than I took.” Jesus was happy that Zacchaeus was going to make things right.



Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)



Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."