



**Growing  
in CHRISt®**

## **Upper Elementary Teacher Guide**

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CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

**Jesus Dies and Rises to Save Us**

**NEW TESTAMENT 4**



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# Introduction

The Upper Elementary level of the **Growing in Christ** curriculum is generally intended for use with students who are in third through fifth grades. Depending on the maturity of your students, it can also be used with younger or older students. The materials for this level include a Teacher Guide, a set of Teacher Tools, and a Student Pack. The materials for this level have been designed for easy preparation and instruction. Check out these resources.

## Features of the Teacher Guide

The thirteen lessons in this guide are organized into four steps.

- **Opening**—including worship and routine Sunday School housekeeping
- **God Speaks**—the Bible study
- **We Live**—in-depth application of God’s Word and the Lutheran doctrines for the students’ lives
- **Closing**—review and closing devotions

Every lesson has an initial page offering “Preparing the Lesson” commentary about the scriptural text and a reproducible page to be used at some point in the lesson. The additional resource pages at the end of the guide provide portions of the Small Catechism, a glossary listing the Faith Words to be taught, and directions for all games used in the quarter. All reproducible pages are found in PDF files on the Teacher Tools CD. The perforated pages of the guide make it adaptable for other teaching scenarios, such as team teaching or substituting.

## Teacher Tools

This packet contains essential tools for teaching a full lesson. Each unit includes these items.

- **Faith Word Cards**—Interwoven in the lessons are four lesson-specific faith vocabulary words. Use these cards in a variety of ways to help instill the language of the faith.
- **Bible Review Cards**—These cards contain questions, numbered according to their level of difficulty, relating to the Bible account. The set contains eight cards per lesson (104 total). Use these cards for reviewing each lesson, for regular review during the quarter, or for a number of review games described in the Teacher Guide. Save the cards from each unit to continue the review process and to play review games during the entire year.
- **Growing in Christ Puzzle Book**—These puzzles are designed to assist the students in learning a key Bible verse or essential concepts from the lesson.
- **Timeline Poster**—This poster details the period of biblical history from which the lessons are drawn and relates biblical history to significant events in world history.
- **Other Posters**—Additional posters explore various aspects of Lutheran doctrine.
- **CD**—This contains audio recordings of hymns, several of the weekly Bible Words, several portions of Luther’s Small Catechism set to music, melody-line scores for all the music in PDF files, lyrics for the hymns and songs in RTF format, and PDF files of the reproducible pages from the Teacher Guide. The Bible Words and catechism recordings are tools designed to help your students learn these important texts. You have permission to copy the reproducible pages, scores, and lyrics to use in class. **Recorded music is not reproducible.** If you wish to copy it, contact CPH copyrights office by emailing [copyrights@CPH.org](mailto:copyrights@CPH.org) or by calling 1-800-325-0191.

## Student Pack

For every unit, this packet of materials contains two items.

- **Lesson Leaflets**—Nested in a self-cover (designed for students to take home and use as a poster) are thirteen four-page leaflets, one for each week of the unit.
- **Bible Discovery Guide**—This combined atlas, dictionary, and encyclopedia of biblical information is compiled specifically for the lessons in this unit. Almost every week, the students will reference the wide variety of information provided in illustrations and text to learn more about the Bible account. Students will want to keep this book as a future reference, but it should be stored at church so the students have them each week. Later, send it home for future reference.

## Additional Materials

Classrooms should have some basic teaching equipment and materials available each week: Bibles, catechisms, hymnals, songbooks, CD player, pencils or pens, paper, index cards, crayons or markers, tape, scissors, glue, and a chalkboard, whiteboard, or newsprint pad with chalk or markers.

You may wish to order the following helps from Concordia Publishing House (browse CPH.org, or call 1-800-325-3040 for subscription information and to order):

- **My Devotions**—Daily devotions for families with children eight to thirteen years old
- **Bible Story Posters**—Set of thirteen biblical art posters for the lessons in this quarter
- **Church Year Connections**—Tips and resources for teaching your students about the Church Year and connecting to the three-year lectionary
- **Arch Books**—CPH has these books that relate to Bible accounts this quarter; consider using them for Bible story presentation or review, or have them available before class.

|           |                                      |         |
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| Lesson 2  | <i>Jesus Enters Jerusalem</i>        | 59-1585 |
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| Lesson 7  | <i>The Easter Gift</i>               | 59-2213 |
|           | <i>The Easter Surprise</i>           | 59-2275 |
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| Lesson 10 | <i>The Story of the Empty Tomb</i>   | 59-1517 |
| Lesson 12 | <i>Jesus Returns to Heaven</i>       | 59-1561 |

## Teaching Helps

You can find many teaching helps, including updates, training helps, and links to podcasts and other resources for your weekly preparation and teaching, at our Sunday School website: CPH.org/sundayschool.

# Preparing the Lesson

## Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10

Date of Use

### Key Point

Like Zacchaeus, we are among the lost whom the Son of Man came to seek and to save. Jesus asks us to forgive those who sin against us, as He forgives us, unconditionally.

### Law/Gospel

I sin when I ignore my own sinfulness and focus on the sinfulness of others, rejecting them because of it. **Christ's blood covers not only my sins but also the sins of every sinner, no strings attached.**

### Context

Jesus is on the last leg of His journey to Jerusalem as He passes through Jericho. It is a few days before Palm Sunday (Luke 19:28–40). Having already extended mercy to a blind beggar, a resident of Jericho (18:35–43), Jesus now runs into another resident of Jericho in need of mercy—Zacchaeus. Because tax collectors worked for the Roman government and overtaxed people to pad their own wallets, the Jews detested them as thieves and traitors. Since Zacchaeus was rich and a chief among the tax collectors (19:2), he was the object of particular spite, shunned as a “sinner” (v. 7).

### Commentary

Thanks to the well-known ditty about this “wee little man,” Zacchaeus has often been portrayed as a sort of patron saint of the height challenged. But this is to miss the point. Short though he was, mammoth were his sins. If he is the patron saint of anyone, it is of those who become rich by sucking the lifeblood out of others. Zacchaeus was in the business that no respectable Jew would consider, indeed, that they would abhor as equal to prostituting oneself to the Romans. To make matters worse, such men often became wealthy, doubly damning them in the eyes of their countrymen.

So when Jesus invited Zacchaeus to come down from his sycamore perch and serve Him supper, “all grumbled,” saying, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner” (v. 7). This is as much, or more, an indictment of Jesus as of the tax collector. “How dare He even speak to such filth, much less invite Himself over for a meal with that scoundrel!” the people scowled. For Zacchaeus had not only sinned in general, but he had also sinned against them. He had siphoned off their income. Jesus would be dining in a home built with money stolen from them, eating food purchased with cash that was rightfully theirs. If they wanted Jesus to do anything with Zacchaeus, it was to yank a switch from that sycamore tree and publicly whip him for his greed!

Perhaps because he overheard the grumbling and was moved by repentance and faith, this infamous sinner announced, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold” (v. 8). What a promise! What faith! As a clear fruit of his own repentance, Zacchaeus astounded everyone by such lavish generosity.

Salvation came to this man not because of his bigheartedness but because of his faith in Jesus, which was evidenced in this giving away of wealth. He is among the “lost” whom the Son of Man seeks, as are we, who are forgiven and called to forgive those who sin against us, no matter how Zacchaeus-like their sins may be.

**To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit [CPH.org/podcast](http://CPH.org/podcast) and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.**

## Lesson 1

# Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10

### Connections

#### Bible Words

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10 (CD 10)

#### Faith Words

the lost, salvation, sinner, pardon

#### Hymn

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb  
(LSB 740; CD 3)

#### Catechism

Holy Baptism; Confession

#### Liturgy

Confession and Absolution

### Prepare to Teach

Make copies of Reproducible Page 1 and Resource Page 4 (optional). Set out the Faith Word Cards on the table.

## 1 Opening (5 minutes)

Welcome students to class and have each one share something about his or her week. If students are reluctant to volunteer information, ask them about school, sports activities, music events, and the like.

Take attendance, gather offerings, and complete any other necessary business. Celebrate any special events in your students' lives in the usual manner. When all have arrived, begin with the Invocation, inviting students to make the sign of the cross to remind them of their Baptism.

**Say** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Place all of today's Faith Word Cards on the table or marker/chalkboard tray in any order. Ask students to rearrange them into an order that would help them verbally explain God's plan of salvation to someone who may or may not know about Jesus. Allow them to use the definitions. For example, "From the time of Adam and Eve's fall into sin, all people are *the lost, sinners* who need both *pardon* from sin and *salvation*, which comes only through faith in Jesus Christ."

Distribute copies of the hymn "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" (LSB 740; CD 3). You can print lyrics or melody-line scores from the Teacher Tools CD.



### MATERIALS NEEDED

| 1 Opening                                          | 2 God Speaks                                                                                                                       | 3 We Live                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4 Closing                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Teacher Tools</b><br>Faith Word Cards 1–4<br>CD | <b>Teacher Tools</b><br>Poster A<br>Bible Review Cards 1–8<br><br><b>Student Pack</b><br>Bible Discovery Guides<br>Lesson Leaflets | <b>Teacher Tools</b><br>CD<br>Growing in Christ Puzzle 1 (optional)<br><br><b>Student Pack</b><br>Lesson Leaflets<br><br><b>Other Supplies</b><br>Reproducible Page 1 (TG)<br>Resource Page 4 (TG) | <b>Teacher Tools</b><br>CD<br>Faith Word Cards 1–4<br>Bible Review Cards 1–8<br><br><b>Other Supplies</b><br>Resource Page 8 (TG; optional) |

**Say** The hymn “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” is an appropriate hymn to sing today. It reminds us of the parable of the lost sheep and of the care that Jesus, our Shepherd, provides for us. We remember that we are guilty of sin, yet we are grateful that Jesus does receive us poor, miserable sinners because He loves us. In our Bible story today, Jesus receives another sinner, just like us, who needed God’s love and forgiveness.

Speak together or sing the hymn. As students sing (or say) the words of the hymn, ask them to find connections to the Faith Words in the lyrics. (“Gently guides me” [st. 1], “Jesus is my staff and stay” [st. 2], and “He bids me go” [st. 2] might refer to *the lost*. “He shall fold me to His breast” [st. 3] refers to *salvation*. “Loves me every day the same” [st. 1] shows that even though we are *sinners*, God *pardons* us.)

Then, sing the hymn together.

**Pray** Lord, in Your mercy, You forgive us and welcome us into Your kingdom as Your dear children. By Your Holy Spirit, help us know the depths of Your love and forgiveness. Help us forgive others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

## 2 God Speaks (15 minutes)

### Jesus Seeks Zacchaeus

Distribute the Bible Discovery Guides and ask students to locate Jericho on the map on pages 2–3.

**Say** Jericho was the city where the walls fell down and God, through Joshua, led the Israelites to victory over the people who lived there. In today’s story, which happened hundreds of years after that Old Testament event, Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to suffer and die for the sins of the world. Although His life on earth is almost over, He continues to show mercy to sinners along the way. Now, in Jericho, He sees yet another sinner—Zacchaeus.

Write the name on the board. *Zacchaeus* means “pure or innocent” (from the Hebrew *ZaKal*). Then, have students find the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus on the timeline, Poster A.

If you surmise that your students are familiar with the Bible story, allow them to examine the biblical art on the front of the Lesson Leaflet and freely discuss the story details.

**Ask** Why is Zacchaeus in the tree? Accept responses and assure students that you will discuss the question again later in the lesson.

Continue with the Bible story. Invite the students to take turns reading lines or sentences of the Bible story printed on page 2 of the Lesson Leaflet. Students will use the underlined words to complete the crossword puzzle when they are finished reading the Bible story.

**Across:** (1) crowd; (2) sinner; (3) salvation; and (4) Jesus.

**Down:** (1) Zacchaeus; (2) lost; (3) tree; (4) Jericho; (5) house; and (6) seek.

## Key Point

Like Zacchaeus, we are among the lost whom the Son of Man came to seek and to save. Jesus asks us to forgive those who sin against us, as He forgives us, unconditionally.

Use the Bible Review Cards for a quick review of facts. Divide the class into four groups. Give each group two cards. Have them quiz one another with the questions on those cards, and then have them trade their cards with another group. Continue trading the cards with other groups until all students have reviewed all the questions and answers for this lesson, or at least the first question on each card. For an extra challenge, allow students to use the Level 2 and 3 questions as well.

## 3 We Live (20 minutes)

**Say** Jesus found Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a short man who needed to climb a tree to see Jesus. He knew that Jesus was someone special, so Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. But Zacchaeus was also a tax collector, and he wasn't liked by the Jews who lived around him. Tax collectors faced many problems because the Jews knew that tax collectors were usually dishonest. Climbing into a tree would certainly draw the crowd's attention to him, but Zacchaeus was intent on seeing Jesus. He knew something was missing in his life, and he looked to Jesus to provide it. He was a sinner, one of the lost, who needed pardon for his sins.

**Ask** Have you ever felt like you didn't belong or like you really wished you could fit in? Accept responses if they are volunteered. Discuss, or allow students to speak freely about times they have felt ostracized from a group for any number of reasons. **That is probably how Zacchaeus was feeling. He was excluded or separated from the people around him because he was a chief tax collector who had cheated the people.**

**Ask** How are we like Zacchaeus? Give plenty of time for students to think about this question, reflecting on the sins that separate them from God and other people. **The truth is that we, like Zacchaeus, are separated from Jesus and other people because of our sin. Sometimes we do or say something that separates us from others.** Share an example, such as how telling a lie makes people not trust you. **Sometimes we are not as kind and loving with others as we should be. We may get angry easily, say mean things behind our friend's back, or steal something from a brother, sister, or parent. These sins and others separate us from one another, just as Zacchaeus felt separated from the other Jews.**

**Continue** What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? ("Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today" [v. 5].) **Out of everyone in the whole crowd, Jesus picked out Zacchaeus, called him by name, and told him that He wanted to spend time with him. This must have been quite a surprise to Zacchaeus and to the people around him.**

**Ask** What did the people grumble about? (Jesus was planning to go into the house of a sinner.) **Zacchaeus may have heard their grumbling. How did he respond?** (He said that he would donate half his money to the poor and pay anyone he had cheated four times as much.)

## Jesus Saves Zacchaeus and Us

To introduce today's Bible Words, direct students to "Jesus Saves Zacchaeus" on page 3 in the leaflet and have students complete the maze.

Continue with the “Jesus Saves Us” activity, reading the paragraphs included. The answer to the leaf puzzle is “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). The Bible Words are recorded on the CD in the Teacher Tools. You could play the song while the students are working on the leaflet activities and on the reproducible page activity described next. Another option is to use Growing in Christ Puzzle 1 to teach the words.



Reproducible Page 1, “Jesus and Zacchaeus,” provides another activity to reinforce the Key Point of the lesson in today’s Bible Words: that Jesus, the Son of Man, seeks and forgives us, just as He did Zacchaeus and all sinners. Have students refer to the Bible story, if needed, to fill in the blanks in the text. Then have them color and decorate their pictures to take home. The correct answer for the banner at the top of the page is “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” The sentence in Jesus’ speech bubble is “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down.” If you give your students time to work independently, make sure that the classroom is quiet and as distraction-free as possible.

**Say** Jesus found Zacchaeus and assured him, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” The good news for Zacchaeus and for us is that Christ comes to us. We, like Zacchaeus, are among the lost whom the Son of Man seeks. God commands us to forgive others as He has forgiven us, no matter how they may sin against us. Oftentimes, we do not want to admit our own wrongdoing but rather focus on the sinfulness of others. We think we’re better than others and don’t want to have anything to do with them. God knows that we cannot live according to the Law. He sent Jesus to seek us out, even when we fail to forgive others, and He forgives us for Jesus’ sake. Christ’s blood covers all the sins of every sinner, no strings attached.

Have students read the questions and answers in the Fourth Part of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, from either Resource Page 4 or Luther’s Small Catechism.

**Ask** How does Jesus seek us sinners? (In His Word and Sacraments, He comes to us to give us forgiveness and salvation.) What happened when we were baptized? Accept responses. (Our sins were washed away, we became children of God, and we received faith in Jesus, our Savior.) In Baptism, through faith, we are saved. We are delivered from sin, from death, and from the power of the devil. Through Baptism, we came into Christ’s kingdom and now will live with Him forever. He will care for us always.



Have students sing again the hymn “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (LSB 740; CD 3). As a part of His flock, we know He will care for us always.

**Say** The Fourth Part of the Sacrament of Baptism reminds us that every day we can be comforted by the fact that we are baptized. If we become troubled because of sin, are afraid of death, or are upset by the devil and his evil schemes, we can say, “I am baptized into Christ. I need nothing else. In Him I have life, forgiveness, and eternal life. Jesus, the Son of Man, came to find me in my sin and save me.”

## 4 Closing (10 minutes)

As a review of today's lesson, write the four Faith Words on the board. Ask students to restate the meaning of each word. Then, randomly read aloud each of the four definitions of the Faith Words and ask students to match them with the word written on the board.

Allow five minutes or so to play one of the Bible Review Games from the end of this guide. Bible Review Relay (Resource Page 8) is one that can be played using the questions from the Bible Review Cards just from today's lesson.

Sing the Bible Words song "Luke 19:10" (CD 10) again, and then sing the catechism song "Confession 1" (CD 14).



**Say** What are the Lord's Supper and Baptism called? (Sacraments)

**Sacraments are ordinary things (such as bread, wine, or water) that are connected with God's Word and pardon us. These are great gifts from God!**

**Pray** Dear Lord, thank You for all the many gifts You give us, especially forgiveness and eternal life. Please help us to cling to You in faith, strengthened through the Sacraments and Your Holy Word. Thank You for welcoming us into Your kingdom, just as You welcomed Zacchaeus. Like him, we are sinners in need of forgiveness, which You freely give. Help us share this message with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# Jesus and Zacchaeus

Oops! This picture is unfinished. Draw Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, watching for Jesus. Then, fill in the missing letters on the banner at the top of the page and fill in the missing letters to find the words in Jesus' speech bubble.

For the \_\_\_\_ n of \_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_ came  
to \_\_\_\_ k and to \_\_\_\_ v \_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_ s \_\_\_\_ . Luke 19:10

Zacchaeus,  
h \_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_ m \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ n. Luke 19:5

