

New Testament 4: Jesus Dies and Rises to Save Us

Engage CD

Cross Explorations® Sunday School



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Cross Explorations® At-a-Glance

25 Minutes

Express

Drama
Music
Crafts
Activities
Service

20 Minutes

Explore

Level 1
(grades 1–3)

Level 2
(grades 4–6)

15 Minutes

Engage

(Large-Group
Opening)

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10

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 and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

Painting by Greg Copeland © CPH

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use

The Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–40



Key Point

The multitudes called out “Hosanna!”—Save us!—to their King. We, too, cry out “Hosanna!” to Jesus, our King, who entered Jerusalem to save us and all people by triumphing over sin.

Law/Gospel

Sin brought death into the world for me and all people. **Jesus, the perfect Son of God, came to be my Savior and King, dying in my place and rising three days later to save me from sin and give me new life in His kingdom.**

Context

At Jesus’ Baptism, God declared Him to be the bearer of the sins of the whole world. For three years, He preached, taught, and worked miracles to show the people that the Old Testament promise of the Messiah had come true. Now, in the last week of His earthly ministry, Jesus “set His face to go to Jerusalem” on His way to the cross (Luke 9:51).

Jesus entered Jerusalem from a small town near the Mount of Olives called Bethphage. It was a town near Bethany, where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived.

Commentary

Jesus chose to enter the city on a donkey, displaying the humble nature of His incarnation. He did not come into this world to sit on an earthly throne and rule over an earthly kingdom. He did not ride into King David’s city to restore King David’s earthly kingdom. If He wanted to do this, He would have ridden on a warhorse, leading an army of soldiers to fight the Romans, who occupied not only Jerusalem but all of the land of Israel. Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world.

Instead, Jesus entered upon a donkey and was followed by a multitude that included the poor, the destitute, and even children. They were people who had been waiting to be rescued from their sins. Many in the crowd believed the Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would be David’s son and would come to them humble, riding on a donkey, as the prophet Zechariah had written, “Rejoice

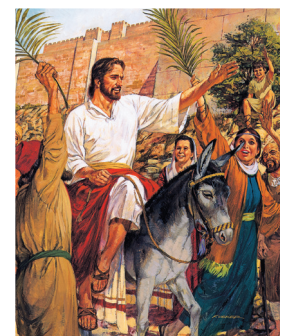
greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is He, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (9:9). Animals that had not yet been used were especially appropriate for holy purposes. Jesus was not coming with the riches of an earthly king. No, He rode into Jerusalem with the accolades of a messianic, heavenly king, coming to give the people righteousness and salvation, forgiveness from their sins. This was the first time Jesus allowed people to treat Him as a king.

In a display of divine knowledge, Jesus described to His disciples where and how to find the donkey He would ride. After spreading their cloaks on the donkey, the disciples led the procession into Jerusalem, and the crowds followed. They shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9). *Hosanna* means “save us now.” The spreading of garments and palm branches is a ceremony of honor, respect, and reverence.

We know something about this crowd from the Gospels. Luke records that the people were rejoicing and praising God for all the great works that they had seen. John 12:17–18 expands on what these works were. These people, or at least a portion of them, had witnessed Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb after he had been dead four days. The feeding of the five thousand happened just before Jesus “set His face to go to Jerusalem,” so those people were also on their way up to Jerusalem at this time.

All of Jesus’ ministry led up to this point. In fact, all of Holy Scripture anticipated this moment when God would save His people from their sins in Jesus.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/ podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Painting by Don Kueker © CPH

POWERPOINT TIPS

The slides on this CD work with PowerPoint versions from 2003 forward or with the free, downloadable PowerPoint Viewer.

The full PowerPoint program is available as part of Microsoft Office for PCs or Macs. A variety of programs on Apple computers convert and use PowerPoint files as well.

As an alternative, Microsoft offers PowerPoint Viewer as a free download. This program lets you view, project, or print slides, but not create or edit them. You need the complete PowerPoint program for those tasks.

To install PowerPoint Viewer, use the link on the automatic menu of this CD.

1. Put the CD in your computer's CD drive.
2. Click "Install." Follow the directions on the automatic menu. It will take you to this site: <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=13>
3. You need to agree to the license terms. Once installation completes, restart your computer.

Troubleshooting

When working with these PowerPoint slides, some things may affect the look of your slides.

1. Different versions of PowerPoint may provide slides that look slightly different than the originals. You might see odd spacing or words that run out of a text box or off the page. You may see odd placement of Bible references.

The problem comes from different fonts on the computers that made the slides and the one you use. Even fonts with the same names may differ from one computer or system to another.

2. To help, we use fonts embedded in Microsoft Office programs and common to most computers. Using the Microsoft Office fonts should take care of most of the differences between the two operating systems.
3. We also prepare and check slides on PC and Mac computers to make sure they work with both systems.
4. If you find odd spacing with apostrophes and quotation marks, change a setting in your PowerPoint program. After doing so, you might need to retype the punctuation marks to get rid of the odd spacing.
 - For Macs, when in the PowerPoint program, click on the word "PowerPoint" along the top menu and choose "Preferences" from a pull-down menu.

Choose “Autoformat As You Type.” Click to check the box in front of “Straight quotes with smart quotes.”

- For PCs, go to File/Options/Proofing/Autocorrect Options. Choose “Autoformat as you type” and click to mark the choice that says “Straight Quotes with Smart Quotes.”

Editing slides

If you have 1997, 2003, 2007, or 2010 Microsoft Office with a full PowerPoint program, you can edit these slides or copy and paste them into different presentations. Some animations may not work in pre-2003 versions of PowerPoint.

(PowerPoint 1997 does not copy and paste slides easily. Please consult your software manual for help.)

When editing and creating slides, you may have difficulties when you cut and paste elements from one slide or presentation to another. However, this is very easy to do if you know a few secrets.

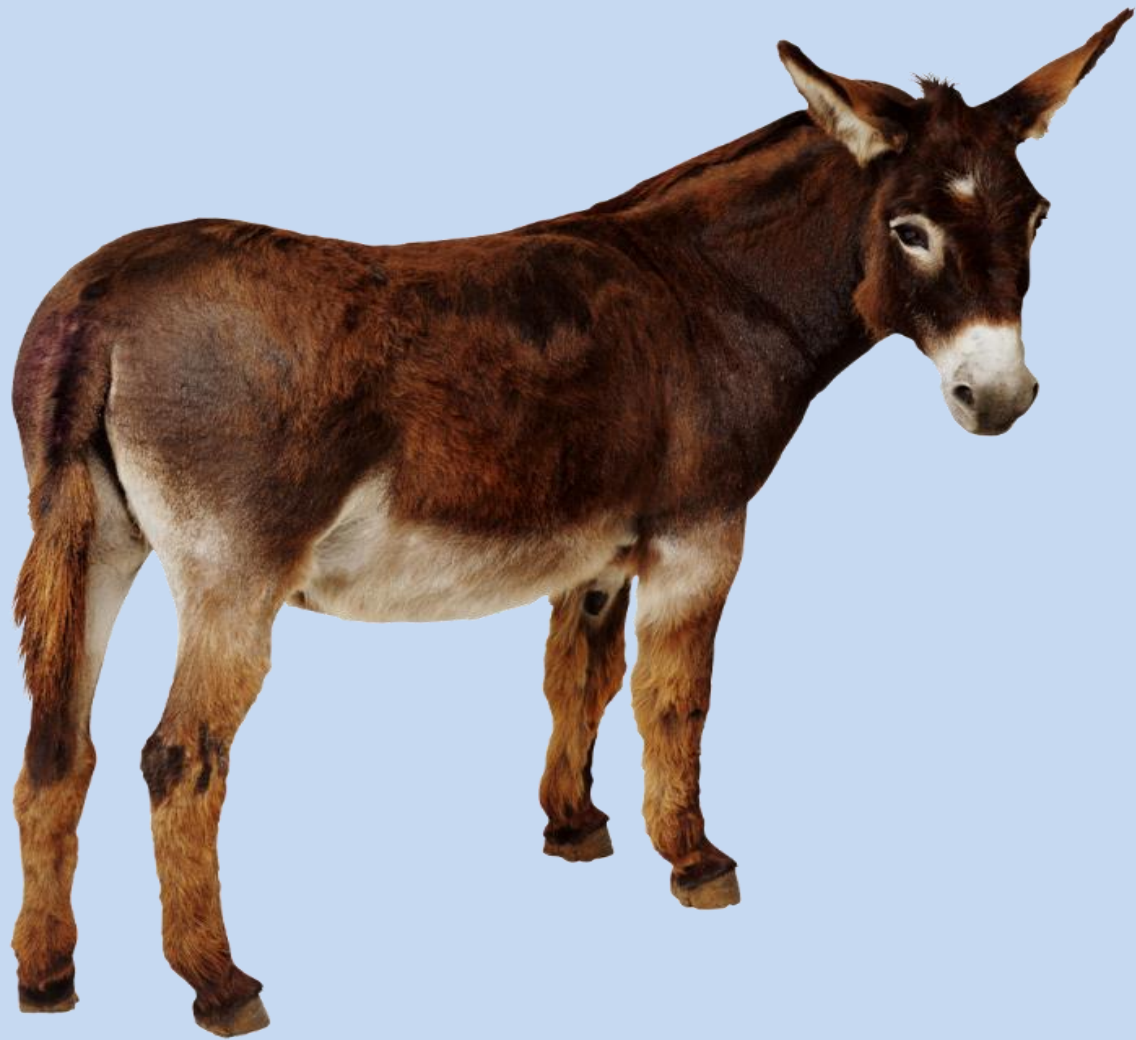
PowerPoint defaults to the design template of the presentation you pasted slides **into** and does not automatically carry over design elements from the slide you copied. This means you can lose art, photos, and other elements of the original slide. However, a few easy steps can retain the design of the original slide.

1. Make sure you are in NORMAL view.
2. Copy slides from the source (right click to bring up the menu and choose COPY), and then put your cursor below or between the slides in the new presentation to insert the copied slides.
3. Paste slides into the new presentation (right click to bring up menu and choose PASTE).
4. When you do, a small clipboard icon appears at the bottom right hand corner or somewhere near the new slides. (If it does not appear, undo and reinsert.) Click on the clipboard. Two choices appear in a menu below the clipboard: (1) Keep source formatting, OR (2) use design template formatting. To retain the design elements of the copied slide, choose 1. To take on attributes of the new presentation, choose 2.

Playing Slides with Linked Music

Open the PPT file. The music slides will automatically play when you click to the first page of lyrics. Do not click again until the song finishes.





Lesson 1 Handout

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Community Prayer

Leader: Dear Lord, You invite us to
pray about everything. We
believe Your promise to hear the
prayers we offer in Jesus' name.
We pray, Lord, that You would
give us mercy and forgive our
sins by which we have offended
You:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring an end to quarreling
and fighting among us and
among the peoples of the earth.
Give us grace to live together in
peace:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to work and play in
such a way that all our activities
may bring honor to Your name:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Watch over the sick, the
troubled, and the lonely people
of the world, and let them
experience the strength and joy
Your Spirit gives:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Give peace to our nation, protect
us from war and violence, and
give us hope in times of
disaster:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presentation

Song

Offering and Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Pray for specific needs, if you like. Pray
the Lord's Prayer, or sing "The Lord's Prayer,"
Track 3.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread; and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For Thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Lesson 2 Handout

The Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–40

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Behold the Lamb

Leader: O God, Father in heaven,

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: O Son of God, Redeemer of the world,

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: O God, the Holy Spirit,

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said,

People: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

Leader: This Jesus, this Lamb of God, paid a high price to take away our sin.

People: Jesus, the spotless Lamb, never sinned.

Leader: Jesus is truly human; He lived among sinful people. He knows our struggles, weaknesses, and sins.

People: Yet Jesus never sinned.

Leader: Jesus is truly God. He healed people and did many other miracles in the presence of many witnesses.

People: Jesus is true God and true man.

Leader: Jesus paid a high price to take away our sin. He died to pay for our sin,

People: and He rose from the dead to give us new life.

Leader: Behold, the Lamb of God,

People: who lived and died to forgive my sin.

Leader: Behold, the Lamb of God,

People: who lives and reigns forever with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Leader: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

People: Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

Song

Recognition

Offering and Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Pray for specific needs, if you like. Pray the Lord’s Prayer, or sing “The Lord’s Prayer,” Track 3.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Bible Challenge Questions

Engage Openings, New Testament 4

Lesson 1

What was Zacchaeus's job? **Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector in Jericho.**

Lesson 2

What does *hosanna* mean? ***Hosanna* means "help" or "save, I pray."**

Lesson 3

Which word in some translations of the Bible describes a small coin, worth about one-fifth of a cent?

- A. Mustard seed
- B. Mite
- C. Mitt

B. Mite

Lesson 4

What is another name for the Lord's Supper? **Holy Communion, Communion, the Eucharist, the Feast**

Lesson 5

How many times does Peter deny that he knows Jesus? **Peter denied Jesus three times.**

Lesson 6

Golgotha and Calvary are two names for the same place. What happened there? **Jesus died on the cross for our sins on this hill outside the city of Jerusalem.**

Lesson 7

Name one of the women who found Jesus' empty tomb on Easter. **Mary Magdalene, Salome, Joanna, Mary mother of James and Joseph, or Mary mother of James and John (sons of Zebedee)**

Lesson 8

Whom does Jesus appear to first after He is resurrected? **Mary Magdalene (see John 20:11–18)**

Lesson 9

In the Bible, what is Emmaus? **A town in Judea, about seven miles from Jerusalem**

Lesson 10

Which disciple did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead? **"Doubting" Thomas**

Lesson 11

True or false: After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples many times, including at least twice in Galilee. **True. See Matthew 28:16–20 and John 21:1.**

Lesson 12

For how many days did Jesus appear to His disciples after His resurrection before He ascended into heaven? **Forty**

Lesson 13

What do you think heaven will be like? **Answers vary.**

New Testament 4

Jesus Dies and Rises to Save Us

Lesson	Title	Date of Use
1	Jesus and Zacchaeus	_____
2	The Triumphal Entry	_____
3	The Widow's Offering	_____
4	The Lord's Supper	_____
5	Peter Denies Jesus	_____
6	The Passion of Christ	_____
7	The Resurrection of Jesus	_____
8	The Empty Tomb	_____
9	Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road	_____
10	Jesus Appears to Thomas	_____
11	Jesus Appears in Galilee	_____
12	Jesus Ascends into Heaven	_____
13	John's Vision of Heaven	_____