

CROSS EXPLORATIONS®: JESUS DIES AND RISES TO SAVE US

LESSON	TITLE/SCRIPTURE	KEY POINT
1	Jesus and Zacchaeus Luke 19:1–10	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.
2	The Triumphal Entry Mark 11:1–10; Luke 19:28–40	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.
3	The Widow’s Offering Mark 12:41–44	The widow gave all she had to God, trusting Him to provide and care for her. Her actions point us to Jesus, who gave His all for us, even though we fail to trust in God for all things.
4	The Lord’s Supper Luke 22:1–23	Jesus is our Passover Lamb, who with His very body and blood grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation.
5	Peter Denies Jesus Mark 14:26–72	Though we, like Peter, deny Jesus and His gifts, Jesus does not deny us because we belong to Him, baptized members of His Body, the Church. Instead, He forgives us and welcomes us back.
6	The Passion of Christ Matthew 27:11–66	The Father, the perfect, righteous Judge of the universe, gave His Son, Jesus, as the perfect, righteous sacrifice on the cross and punished Him for the sin of the whole world.
7	The Resurrection of Jesus Matthew 28:1–10	The resurrection reveals that the Father has accepted the Son’s sacrifice for our sins, and it fills us with confident hope that, as Christ has been raised from the dead, we, too, will rise to eternal life.
8	The Empty Tomb John 20:1–18	On the first Easter, Jesus revealed to Mary Magdalene and to His disciples that He was alive. Through the Word, the Spirit gives us faith to believe in Christ’s resurrection and comforts us when we mourn the death of loved ones.
9	Jesus Appears on the Emmaus Road Luke 24:13–35	The disciples recognized Jesus through the Scriptures and the breaking of the bread. Christ comes to us and abides with us through Word and Sacrament and continues to open our eyes and strengthen our faith.
10	Jesus Appears to Thomas John 20:19–31	We, like Thomas, doubt what we cannot see. Through His Spirit, God gives us eyes of faith that we might see Jesus in Word and Sacrament and believe in Him.
11	Jesus Appears in Galilee John 21:1–19	We are all like Peter in our words and actions, denying our Lord and weeping bitterly over what we have done. We need the same comfort Peter received—the comfort of sins forgiven and the assurance that even when we are faithless, Jesus remains faithful.
12	Jesus Ascends into Heaven Acts 1:1–11; Luke 24:44–53	Jesus, our risen Savior, ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us there with Him.
13	John’s Vision of Heaven Revelation 21–22	Those who believe that salvation has been accomplished by the all-availing sacrifice of Jesus on the cross will bear the sign of Christ, written on their forehead in Holy Baptism, and they will have access to the tree of life.

Jesus Dies and Rises to Save Us

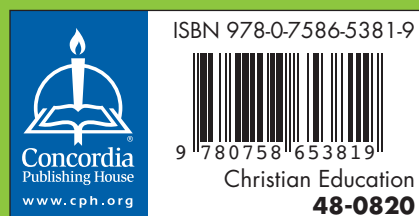
NEW TESTAMENT 4

Level
1

EXPLORE



Teacher Leaflets
Grades 1–3



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Faith Words

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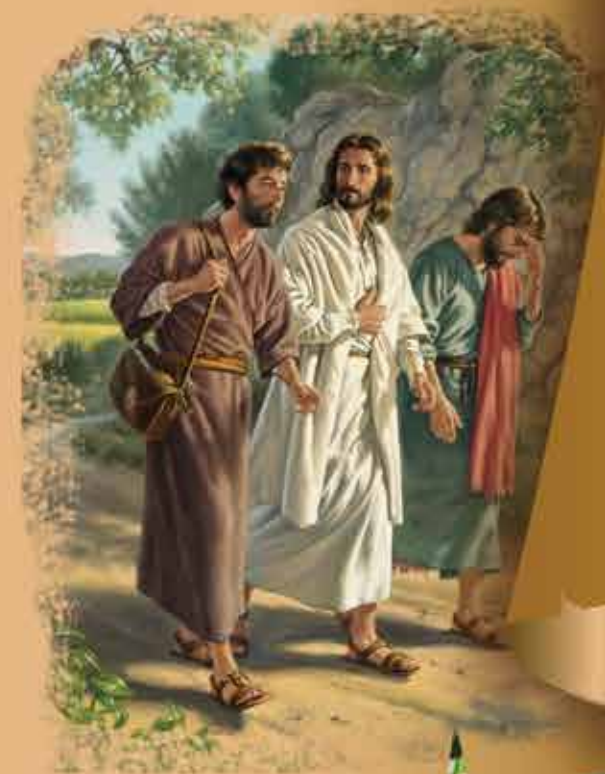
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Preparing the Lesson

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1–10

Date of Use



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.

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



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

Review

If Jesus wrote a note to Zacchaeus or to you, what would it say? Fill in the blanks. Bonus: Find fifteen hearts on this page.

Dear Z _____,
I have noticed you! Come to Me. I know you have sinned by _____. Your sin has pulled us apart. But I _____ you. You are saved. You are a child of _____.

Love,
J _____

Dear _____,
I have noticed you! Come to Me. I know you have sinned by _____. Your sin has pulled us apart. But I _____ you. You are saved. You are a child of _____.

Love,
J _____



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



Get Ready to Teach

To prepare, read the Bible story and page 1 of this Teacher Leaflet.

From pages 2 and 3, choose the activities that work best for you.

Look at the review on page 4.

Plan to teach the Bible Memory Verse.

Bible Memory Verse

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

Start

Welcome your students, and quickly organize them into groups of two. Invite them to think of different ways a person can be poor; share their ideas.

Ask

What are some ways to be poor? What are some ways to be rich? Can you be both at the same time? Accept student responses. Answers will vary.

In today's Bible account, Jesus comes to a man who is both rich and poor. The man is rich in money but poor in spirit.

Write the word *seek* on the Faith Words Poster.

Say

This word *seek* means "to search." Jesus came to search for people poor in spirit, people who are sinners. Let's see how Zacchaeus who is rich in money and poor in spirit becomes rich in a new way.

Do

- ☐ Give the children the Student Leaflets. They can write their names at the bottom of page 1.
- ☐ Look at the story pictures on page 1. Identify the characters and setting.
- ☐ Open the leaflet. Read The True Story to the children, stopping at each asterisk to look at the picture that goes along with the reading.

Read

The True Story

In Jericho, there lived a man named Zacchaeus; he was a rich tax collector. Some people did not like tax collectors. They thought tax collectors cheated people, making them pay too much money to the Roman government.

One day, Jesus was traveling to Jericho. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but the crowds were great and he was short. So Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowds and climbed into a sycamore tree. * When Jesus walked by, He stopped and called up to Zacchaeus. He said, "**Hurry and come down, Zacchaeus. I want to stay at your house today.**"

Zacchaeus was filled with joy. He did just what Jesus said.

Some people grumbled because Jesus was willing to eat with sinners like Zacchaeus. They did not think it was right.

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "**Lord, I will give half of my goods to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back.**"

Jesus said, "**Today, salvation has come to this house. I have good news. I have come to seek and to save the lost.**" *

This Bible story is an example of what Jesus means when He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Zacchaeus was poor in spirit but rich in Jesus because Jesus had come to him.

Look

- ☐ Review the story using the illustrations as a guide.

Find

- ☐ If you have students who can read the Bible, have them work together to look up the Bible verses and to answer the questions.

Luke 19:5

What do you think? Who found whom? Did Zacchaeus find Jesus, or did Jesus find Zacchaeus?

Jesus found Zacchaeus.

Luke 19:8

Zacchaeus's words and actions showed that he was sorry for loving money so much. What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus he would do?

Zacchaeus said he would give goods to the poor and repay money to people whom he had cheated, even up to four times the amount.

Share

Do

- ☐ Talk about the at-home activities on page 3. Read the Lily's Day cartoon. Ask the children to tell you how Jesus makes them VIPs: Very Important Persons.
- ☐ Review the lesson with the activity found on the back of this leaflet.

Directions

If Jesus wrote a note to Zacchaeus or to you, what would it say? Fill in the blanks. Bonus: Find fifteen hearts on this page.

The children fill in the blanks in imagined notes from Jesus to Zacchaeus and from Jesus to them.

- ☐ Teach the Bible Memory Verse using the bottom of the Review page.
- ☐ Take time to reflect on today's lesson. What went well? What concerns do you have?

The Triumphal Entry

Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-40

Date of Use



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

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

Review

Write the letters ea on the blanks to complete the words. Read each sentence to review the story. Add e's and a's to find out what the person in the crowd is shouting.

Jesus went on ah____d, going up to Jerusalem. When He drew n____r to the Mount of Olives, He told two of His disciples directions to h____r: "Go into town and s____rch for a colt. Untie it and bring it to Me." So they threw the cloak they had to w____r on the colt and brought it to Jesus to ride.

As Jesus rode along, many people spr____d their cloaks on the road. As Jesus was alr____dy on the way down the Mount of Olives, many people spr____d l____fy branches on the road. They praised God in a loud voice and scr____med, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! P____ce in h____ven and glory in the highest!"

Hosanna!
Hillujah!



Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Mark 11:9

Get Ready to Teach

To prepare, read the Bible story and page 1 of this Teacher Leaflet.

Put up the Faith Words Poster (the poster inside the Teacher Leaflet cover).

Choose activities from pages 2 and 3 that work best for you. Look at the review on page 4.

Bible Memory Verse

Hosanna!
Blessed is He
who comes
in the name
of the Lord!
Mark 11:9

Start

Welcome the children as they arrive. Gather them comfortably around you for a group discussion.

Ask

Have you ever been to a parade or seen one on television?

Why do we have parades? Who are the people in parades?

Give students time to tell you about their parade experiences.

Who is the most important person you have ever seen in a parade?

How could you tell they were important?

Let students discuss how you can usually spot important people by their clothes or their cars or because of some other special thing.

Say

In today's lesson, we will hear about a very special parade that wasn't for a winning sports team or a national holiday. In today's lesson, we are going to learn about a time when Jesus came into Jerusalem, not riding in a chariot, but riding on a humble donkey. Our Faith Word for today is *Messiah*. Jesus came to be our Messiah, to conquer sin so that we could live forever with Him in heaven.

Do

- ☐ Give the children the Student Leaflets. Tell them to write their names at the bottom of the page. Discuss the "I wonder" statement.
- ☐ Look at the story picture on page 1. Identify the characters and setting—those in the picture and those not in the picture.
- ☐ Read The True Story, stopping at the asterisks to discuss key points. Then, reread the story with students acting out the different parts.

Read

The True Story

Jesus went ahead of the crowds up to Jerusalem. When He came near the Mount of Olives, He told His disciples, **"Go into town and search for a colt. Untie it and bring it to Me."**

They went and found a colt tied to a door outside in the street, and they untied it. Some of the people standing in the street asked them, **"Why are you doing this?"**

The disciples told them, **"The Lord needs it, but we will bring it back." ***

They brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks on it for Jesus to ride on the colt. Many others spread their cloaks on the road and others waved palm branches for Jesus. *

The people celebrated their King and shouted, **"Hosanna! * Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"**

Usually, earthly kings rode in fancy chariots and wore golden crowns, but not our King, Jesus. Jesus rode on a humble donkey to fulfill the Old Testament prophecy of Zechariah and to show the people that He was a different kind of king. The people thought they needed an earthly king, but Jesus knew they needed a Messiah who would conquer sin and rule forever.

Look

- ☐ Use the pictures to review the Bible story.

Find

- ☐ This option is for students who can read the Bible. Have them work together to read the Bible verse and answer the questions. For beginners, use bookmarks to mark the location before class.

Luke 19:37

How did the people react when they saw Jesus?

They began to rejoice and praise God with loud voices.

What do you think you would do if you were part of the crowd when Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem?

Listen to responses and encourage answers that reflect the praise and adoration the people in Jerusalem showed.

Share

Do

- ☐ Talk about the Family Time activities on page 3 of the Student Leaflet. Read the Lily's Day cartoon. Talk about why we need a Savior and how much Jesus loves being our Savior King.
- ☐ Review the lesson with the activity on the back of the Student Leaflet. Let students work together to read the sentences.

Directions

*Write the letters ea on the blanks to complete the words. Read each sentence to review the story. Add e's and a's to find out what the person in the crowd is shouting. **Hosanna! Hallelujah!***

- ☐ Teach the Bible Memory Verse, using the cues.
- ☐ At the end of today's lesson, reflect on the experience. Was each student engaged in the learning process?