

## Bible background

Luke 19:1-10

## Aim of lesson

To show that God and Jesus love everybody, even those who are not liked by other people.

## Preparation required

Make one set of finger puppets and a cardboard-reinforced tree from your activity sheet. You will need scissors, colouring materials, strips of cardboard, glue and/or sellotape.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Introduce the finger puppet of Zacchaeus and tell the class how everyone hated him for the work he did. He collected money from everyone - the tax they had to pay the government. The people did not like paying out their money, and as some of it went into Zacchaeus' pocket, they hated him as well.
2. Place the tree on the table and tell how Zacchaeus one day heard that Jesus was coming to his town. He wanted to see him but was too small to see over the crowds. So he climbed a tree. Hold Zacchaeus at the top of the tree, and bring the finger puppet of Jesus along and complete the narrative. Ask the children how Zacchaeus must have felt.
3. Tell the story again, allowing the children to hold the puppets. Encourage them to join in by asking 'What happened next?'
4. Teach the song 'Zacchaeus'.
5. The children can all make their own finger puppets and tree, and act it out again while you tell the story.

## Alternative activities

1. Make a large handprint tree, using children's handprints for the leaves. If the children help with cutting, the shapes will be very approximate. Use the Zacchaeus puppet from the work pad and hide him amongst the leaves.
2. Role play Jesus going to Zacchaeus' house for a meal. Lay the table with plastic/paper plates & cups. You could make food out of play dough.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask what the children think they should do if another child has no friends to play with. PRAYER Ask who would like to thank Jesus for being a friend to Zacchaeus and making him so happy.

## Verse

'Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today.' Luke 19:5.

## Song

### Zacchaeus

G D7 G D7 G D7 G C G  
 D Em D7 G G D7 G D7 G D7  
 G C G D Em G D7 G

Now Zacchaeus was a very little man  
 And a very little man was he  
 He climbed up into a sycamore tree  
 For the Saviour he wanted to see  
 And when the Saviour passed that way  
 He looked into the tree  
 And said: Now Zacchaeus, you come down (This line is spoken)  
 For I'm coming to your house for tea.

Music and Words: cop con.