

Year C - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 19:1-10

Today salvation has come to this house.



Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived.

He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich.

Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like.

But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd.

So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

When Jesus got there, he looked up and said,

"Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."

Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Everyone who saw this started grumbling,

"This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

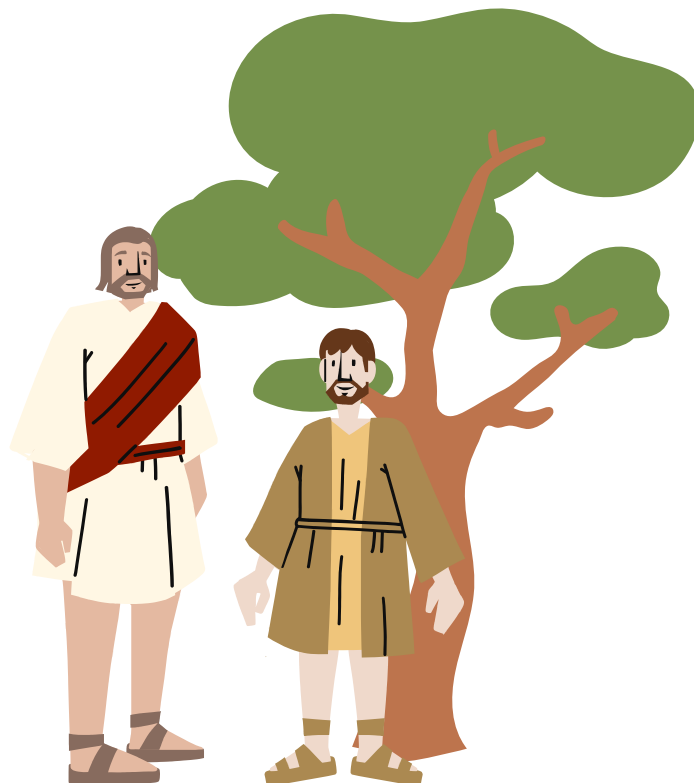
Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,

"I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus,

"Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham.

The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."



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The love of Jesus changes us



- Introduction:**
- Today's gospel is a beautiful story about someone encountering Jesus and his love. Just like Zacchaeus experienced, when we encounter the love of Jesus it changes us and spills over to all those around us. Jesus' love makes us more loving, kind and good to others as well.
 - In this scripture, the beauty and essence of the message is in the story itself. For this reason the message is basically an unpacking of the characters and events of the story of Zacchaeus.

- Message:**
- Begin by identifying each of the characters in the story: Jesus, Zacchaeus, the disciples, those Zacchaeus had cheated, the crowd, and Zacchaeus's household.
 - Invite the children to describe each character or character group:
 - Who are they? What do you know about them?
 - Here you may need to describe the role of a tax collector and the relationship between a tax collector and the people/government.
 - What are they like?
 - How might they feel, why?
 - How might they be feeling at different times in the story and why?

- Discussion:**
- What made Zacchaeus change? (His encounter with Jesus... Jesus wanted to come to his house even though Zacchaeus had done the wrong thing).
 - What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this story? (e.g. When we stay close to Jesus, when we make our hearts open to his love, it helps us to love others and be the best person we can be).

