

3



JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

Seek & Save the Lost/ Faith

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 1: ENTERING THE KINGDOM

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Luke 19:1 - 10

Objectives To explain that

- Today's story is about entering God's Kingdom.
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Every human being has sinned and is lost without Jesus.
- Zacchaeus was saved from sin and death and received new life when he put his faith in Jesus. To have faith in Jesus means to trust and obey him.
- Repentance and faith are both part of receiving the free gift of salvation through Jesus.
- When we receive Jesus like Zacchaeus did, it changes us, because Jesus' love for us changes our hearts. Zacchaeus decided to pay back everything he had stolen and more.
- Zacchaeus was saved by grace. He received the free gift of salvation, not because he deserved it, but because Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Memory Verse "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10 – ESV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's story of Jesus and Zacchaeus is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 195 Do you sin against God's Law? Yes. I, together with all humankind, sin daily against God's Law, in thought, word, and deed, both by what I do and by what I fail to do.

Q 3 How does sin affect you? Sin alienates me from God, my neighbor, God's good creation, and myself. Apart from Christ, I am hopeless, guilty, lost, helpless, and

walking in the way of death.

Q 5 Can you save yourself from the way of sin and death? No. I have no power to save myself, for sin has corrupted my conscience, confused my mind, and captured my will. Only God can save me.

Q 106 How does God respond to human sin? All sin is opposed to the righteousness of God and is therefore subject to God's holy condemnation; yet God in his mercy offers me forgiveness and salvation from sin through his Son, Jesus Christ, the only Savior.

Q 12 What does it mean for you to have faith? To have faith means that I believe the Gospel is the truth: that Jesus died for my sins, rose from the dead, and rules over my life. Therefore, I entrust myself to him as my Savior, and I obey him as my Lord.

Q 13 How can you repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ? With God's help, I can acknowledge and turn from my sins, receive the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and embrace the new life he freely gives me.

Q 332 Why does God forbid stealing? God is Creator and Lord of this world, and all things come from him. Therefore, I must never take what God has not entrusted to me.

Q 333 How did God teach Israel to respect the property of others? God required restitution when property was stolen or destroyed; and he forbade unjust loans and oppression of the poor.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Clear plastic bag with coins
- Chair for a child to stand on
- Flashlight with batteries
- Jesus and Zacchaeus peg dolls
- Zacchaeus poster (found in props document)
- Story board symbols: Flashlight symbol & "FAITH" arrow.
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

Costumes: Jesus (blue sash) and Zacchaeus.

Memory Verse: "The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost." (Luke 19:10 – ESV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

After reading the memory verse, explain to the children: The expression "The Son of Man" is a name that Jesus often used for himself, and it refers to him.

2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	Jesus Loves Me This I Know Jesus you died upon a cross (Salvation Poem – Superbook) Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man <i>Please check internet for lyrics and music.</i>
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson.



Jesus came to look for Zacchaeus and save him



This is how the storyboard should look at the end of the lesson. After the lesson, remove the peg dolls and leave the symbols on the storyboard for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Have two teaching areas set up. One for the play and one for the Kingdom Life storyboard. Have a picture of the Zacchaeus story up on the board/easel next to the storyboard. Start the lesson by the storyboard for the review and introduction to the play.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about Entering God's Kingdom.'*

STORYBOARD REVIEW: (During the storyboard review, explain any difficult words in the story.)

(Point to storyboard): We have learned that God made us to know him as our King and enjoy his love and life. But our sin separates us from God and leads to eternal death.

How can we enter God's Kingdom? (Through the cross. Jesus is the gate. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sin and can enter into the life in God's Kingdom. This is called salvation.)

What does "grace" mean? (Grace is God's undeserved love for us. God's love and salvation through Jesus is a free gift to us that we don't deserve. Because of our sin we deserve death, but God has given us his life and love instead.)

What does "repentance" mean? (Repentance means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God. Repentance is part of receiving the free gift of Salvation through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent, trust and obey Jesus.)

STORY:

TEACHER: Our story today is about a man who turned to Jesus. He repented and entered the Kingdom of God because Jesus looked for him and found him. His name was Zacchaeus.

ACTION: *Bring out the bag of coins.*

TEACHER: Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Tax collectors were not always good people. When they collected the taxes, they would often take extra money from the people and keep it for themselves.

What is another word for taking money that does not belong to you? *(Let children answer)* Yes, it is stealing.

By taking this extra money, Zacchaeus had been stealing from the people for a long time. Because Zacchaeus was a thief, he became very rich.

(Show Zacchaeus poster) One day Jesus was passing through the town where Zacchaeus lived.

Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus, but he was short and could not see over the crowd of people. Zacchaeus thought of a plan. He would climb up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. But Zacchaeus didn't know that Jesus had come to look for **him**.

Let's act out the story. I need a person to play Zacchaeus, a person to play the role of Jesus, and the rest of us to be the crowd.

ACTION: *Get a shorter child to play the role of Zacchaeus, and someone to play Jesus. The rest of the children can stand up and be the crowd of people. Arrange crowd in the middle of the stage and Zacchaeus standing on a chair behind them, so he can see Jesus above the crowd. Zacchaeus holds the bag of coins. Jesus walks up to him.*

TEACHER: As Jesus walks by the tree, he looks up and sees Zacchaeus in the tree.

JESUS: "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I want to go to your house".

TEACHER: Zacchaeus came down out of the tree and welcomed Jesus.

ACTION: *Have Zacchaeus climb down and walk with Jesus. They should pause in front of the crowd of people.*

TEACHER: When the people saw Jesus and Zacchaeus together, they began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus said to Jesus,

ZACCHAEUS: "I will give half of what I own to those who are poor. And I will pay back everything I have stolen. In fact, I will pay back four times the amount I took!"

ACTION: *Zacchaeus holds out the bag of coins towards the crowd.*

TEACHER: Wow, what a big change in Zacchaeus! He used to steal from people, but when he met Jesus, his life was changed!

Jesus said to Zacchaeus....

JESUS: "Zacchaeus, today salvation has come to you. I came to seek and save the lost."

TEACHER: Let's go back to our storyboard and talk about what we can learn from

this story.

ACTION: Have the children look at the Kingdom Life storyboard.

TEACHER: In our story we heard that Jesus came to look for the lost and save them. Who are the lost that Jesus came to save? *(Let the children respond.)*

Yes, every human being has sinned and is lost without Jesus. People like you and me and Zacchaeus. *(Place Zacchaeus doll on the grey area by the "SIN" card.)* We cannot make our own way out of sin and into God's Kingdom, so Jesus came to seek and save us. *(Place Jesus peg doll on grey area just outside the cross.)*

TEACHER: See this flashlight? *(Pull out the flashlight and turn it on).* You use a flashlight to look for something that is lost in the dark. *(Shine the light around the grey area and onto Zacchaeus.)* This flashlight reminds me that Jesus looked for Zacchaeus and found him.

Let's place this picture of a flashlight on the storyboard **outside** the Kingdom of God *(place flashlight symbol as shown)*, because Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

TEACHER: Jesus called Zacchaeus to follow him, and Zacchaeus repented – he turned from his sin and decided to follow Jesus *(turn Zacchaeus around to face Jesus and walk him through the cross, following Jesus)*. Zacchaeus was saved from sin and death. He received new life when he put his faith in Jesus.

(Hold up "FAITH" arrow) This arrow says to have "faith" means to "trust and obey Jesus". Let's say it together: **Faith means to trust and obey Jesus.** *(Children echo sentence)*

TEACHER: Let's place the faith arrow down next to the repentance arrow going through the cross gate *(place the "FAITH" arrow down as shown)*, because repentance and faith are both part of **receiving** the free gift of salvation through Jesus.

Jesus loves us and it changes our hearts. It sure changed Zacchaeus! What did Zacchaeus do to show that his heart was changed? *(Let the children respond.)*

Yes, he decided to pay back everything he had stolen and more! His heart was changed, and he became generous.

But being generous is not what saved Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was saved by grace. He received the free gift of salvation, not because he deserved it, but because Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Let's finish our lesson by standing up and singing a song called "Zacchaeus was a wee little man."

ACTION: *Stand up and sing "Zacchaeus was a wee little man" with the children.*

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Thank you, Jesus, that you came to seek and save us. Thank you for your great love for us! We want to trust and obey you, just like Zacchaeus did. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He came to look for the lost and save them)
- **Who are the lost that Jesus came to seek and save?** (Everyone. We are all sinners who are lost without Jesus.)
- **Did Zacchaeus repent?** (Yes. He had a change of heart and turned from his sin and started following Jesus.)
- **What is faith?** (To trust and obey Jesus. It is part of receiving the free gift of salvation through Jesus.)
- **How does God's love change us?** (It changes our hearts and make us want to live for God and do good to other people.)
- **How did Jesus' love change Zacchaeus?** (His heart was changed, and he became generous. Zacchaeus gave half of what he owned to the poor and paid back four times all that he stole)
- **What does the flashlight remind us about?** (Jesus came to seek and save the lost)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"The Son of Man
came to seek and
save the lost."

(Luke 19:10)