



GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

LIFE

GRACE
God's undeserved
love for us

SALVATION



FAITH Trust and obey Jesus

REPENTANCE

ENTERING THE KINGDOM

SIN

DEATH

Lesson 3: *Jesus and Zacchaeus* (Condensed Version)

SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST/FAITH (Scripture: Luke 19: 1-10)

Objectives: To explain that: *Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Everyone 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 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.

Review and "I Wonder" Questions: 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. We enter God's Kingdom through the cross. 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. 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. 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.

***I wonder** why there is a man in the tree *I wonder what Jesus is saying to the man in the tree. Let's find out more in our story....

Lesson Props: Bag of coins. Flashlight. Optional large version of story picture on pg. 3

Lesson Summary: In today's Bible story, there was a Jewish tax collector named Zacchaeus. When he collected the taxes, he would often take extra money from the people and keep it for himself. What is another word for taking money that does not belong to you? (*stealing*). Yes, Zacchaeus had stolen a lot of money from the people (*show bag of coins*). One day Jesus was passing through the town where Zacchaeus lived. Many people gathered in the streets, but Zacchaeus was a short man, so he had to climb a tree to see Jesus (*point to Zacchaeus in the tree*). But Jesus had actually come to look for Zacchaeus! When Jesus saw him in the tree, he called, "Zacchaeus, come down! For I must be a guest in your home today." Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus and repented of his sin and received God's forgiveness. He gave half of what he owned to the poor and paid back four times the amount he stole. (*turn on flashlight symbolizing Jesus seeking people*) In our memory verse Jesus said he came to **seek and save "the lost"**. Who are the lost that Jesus came to seek and save? Yes, every human being. People like you and me and Zacchaeus. We have all sinned and are lost without Jesus! (*point to flashlight symbol*) This flashlight symbol reminds us that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Zacchaeus was saved from sin and death. (*point to sin and death*) He received new life when he put his faith in Jesus. To have **FAITH** in Jesus means to trust and obey him. (*point to FAITH arrow*) We have this faith arrow next to the repentance arrow, because 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. It sure changed Zacchaeus! He decided to pay back everything he had stolen from people and more! (*show money bag*) 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.

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 changed, and he became generous. Zacchaeus gave back what he owed and more!) * *What does the flashlight remind us about? (Jesus came to seek and save the lost)

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

(Note: The expression "The Son of Man" is a name that Jesus often used for himself, and it refers to him).



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