



Creative Kidswork

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus

LUKE 19: 1 - 10

21 CREATIVE IDEAS

The Bible passage in this lesson:

Zacchaeus is the head of the tax collectors in Jericho. He is very rich. When he hears that Jesus is visiting Jericho, he wants to see Jesus. Because Zacchaeus is small, he runs ahead and climbs a tree so that he can see Jesus.

As Jesus walks past the tree, he says, "Zacchaeus, come down, because I'm coming to visit you." Zacchaeus is so happy that Jesus wants to come to his house, but the people in Jericho complain: "Jesus is staying with a thief."

When Zacchaeus realized this, he promised, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have stolen money, I will give back four times as much. Jesus replied to Zacchaeus, "You are part of the people of Abraham again. You and your family were saved today. For I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save what was lost.

(Luke 19: 1 - 10)

Twenty-one creative ideas for your children's ministry

This Sunday school programme consists of twenty-one creative ideas. We hope you will find enough inspiration and activities here to fill your entire programme with the children.

- * Walk-in activity Four easy to do ideas based on Zacchaeus
- * Children's moment Zacchaeus the toad
- * Icebreaker Do you have to pay extra?
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- * Prayer idea Leaves of prayer
- * Prayer idea Tax collector's bag of prayers
- * Prayer idea Roll-a-prayer cubes

Walk-in activity - Four easy to do ideas based on Zacchaeus

As we prepare for our story about Zacchaeus today, we've got some fun activities to kick things off. You can measure your height like Zacchaeus, try sorting coins as a tax collector, make your own Zacchaeus figurine, or join a hunt to spot Zacchaeus hidden around the room. Dive in and enjoy!

Idea 1: Zacchaeus height chart

Zacchaeus was a shorter man who climbed a tree to see Jesus. Let's see how tall we are and imagine how Zacchaeus might have felt in a crowd.

Materials:

- large poster paper or a roll of butcher paper
- marker
- measuring tape
- stickers

Instructions:

Hang the paper vertically on the wall at child level.

Use the measuring tape and marker to create a height chart, making sure to include heights that are shorter and taller than the children participating.

When the children arrive, they can each take a turn standing against the height chart.

Place a sticker or mark the chart at the top of each child's head and write their name next to it.

Idea 2: Coin sorting

Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which means he handled a lot of coins. Let's practice sorting coins just like Zacchaeus might have done!

Materials:

- variety of plastic or paper coins
- several jars or containers

Instructions:

Scatter the coins on a table.

Each child can take turns sorting the coins into the jars based on their type (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters).

Ideas 3: Clothespin Zacchaeus craft

Zacchaeus is a key character in today's story. Let's create our very own Zacchaeus figurine using clothespins!

Materials:

- clothespins
- coloured paper
- crayons
- glue
- scissors

Instructions:

Provide each child with a clothespin.

Let them cut out clothes and a face for Zacchaeus from coloured paper.

They can then colour in any additional features with crayons.

Once done, they can glue the clothes and face onto the clothespin to create their Zacchaeus figurine.

Idea 4: Spot Zacchaeus game

In our story today, Zacchaeus had to climb a tree to be seen by Jesus. Let's play a game where we try to spot Zacchaeus!

Materials:

- pictures or figurines of Zacchaeus

Instructions:

Before the children arrive, hide the Zacchaeus pictures or figurines around the room.

As children arrive, tell them that Zacchaeus is hiding and it's their job to find him.

The children can then start searching for Zacchaeus. Once found, they can place them in a designated area.

Continue the game until all Zacchaeus figures are found.

Children's moment - Zacchaeus the toad

A short introduction to the Bible story of Zacchaeus, which aims to teach something from the Bible story and at the same time make the children curious about what is yet to come.

Materials:

- bucket
- (toy) toad / frog(s)

Instructions:

Do: Ask the children to come forward.

Bring a bucket and ask the children if they can guess what's in the bucket. Tell: There is a toad / frog / frogs in my bucket. Let the children have a look. Ask: Who knows why there is a toad / frog in my bucket?

Tell: Every year the toad migration takes place. Then the toads cross the roads in search of the ditches and ponds where they have changed from a tadpole into a toad. Many of these toads are unfortunately killed by cars, so volunteers use buckets to search for and rescue the toads.

Today in our Bible story we are talking about someone who is also seen as a kind of toad by the people in Jericho. Someone you look down on, you don't associate with. Such a dirty and slimy creature. Does anyone know who it is about yet?

In our story, Jesus goes in search of this toad to find and save him. He kisses him with his love and this toad turns into a son of Abraham.

Ask: Do you think my toad will change when you kiss him?

Icebreaker - Do you have to pay extra?

A playful introduction to the theme.

Today's part of the Bible is about Zacchaeus, a tax collector. He was used to collecting taxes, and sometimes even more than that!

Materials:

- something you can pay for: small sweets, balls, coins, beads, etc.

Instructions:

Do: Take one child aside and agree on a secret code. Then have the child sit on a chair with one arm stretched out in front so that it looks like a lever.

Tell: Explain to the other children that this is the tax collector and that the children have to pay a toll of 1 euro to get through, but that if you don't stick to the secret code, you have to pay 4 euros.

The children can ask one by one if they can go through. The tax collector tells them how much they have to pay and then lets them through. The children can try to find out what the secret code is!

Do: Give each child ten beads or coins, with which they can pay the tax collector.

Ask: Can the children find out what the secret code is?

Secret codes:

- 1 or 2 arms folded
- Smile
- Feet against each other
- Keep your head tilted
- 1 or 2 hands on the back
- Making eye contact with the tax collector

Play this game several times with different tax collectors.

Variation: Make it even more real by making 2 teams and giving each child 10 euros in fake money (papers with a number on them). Let the teams try to find the code and get as much money as possible out of it.

Storytelling tips - Five tips to help you tell this story

Tip 1: Tell the story as Zacchaeus

Tell the story from the viewpoint of Zacchaeus. Put on fancy clothes and show off a lot of (fake) money, and tell how you got rich so quickly. Tell them you heard about Jesus and got curious. Tell them why you climbed into the tree (demonstrate this by climbing onto a table for example) and that Jesus called you. Describe how you felt.

Let the children think about how the visit might have gone. At the end, tell them how happy you were that Jesus came for you and hand out the fake money and fancy clothes to the children.

Tip 2: Tell the story from the point of view of a coin

Take a euro (or any coin in your currency) and tell the story from the point of view of the coin. Tell about the journey you have made, that you were paid as a tax but were put in a man's own pocket, that the amount of coins in his pocket grew and grew. Tell about the climb into the tree, Jesus' special visit, and how you came back to your rightful owner together with many other coins.

Tip 3: Link Zacchaeus to a well-known notorious person

Together with the children, think of someone who is notorious and does a lot of bad things. If the children find it hard, you could use a cartoon character or someone from a TV program. Would the children like to visit this person and have a nice meal with them? Make the link to Zacchaeus - Jesus came to visit him!

Tip 4: Tell the story with sweets - see object lesson

A fun idea in which you use eight different kind of sweets to tell the Bible story of Zacchaeus. Afterwards you can let the children tell the story to each using these sweets.

Tip 5: Act the story out with the children - see object lesson

Tell the story of Zacchaeus, while you act it out with the children. In this way you can bring the story of Zacchaeus to life!

Video and reflection - Red's Angry Story

On the basis of a secular YouTube film and some creative activities, the children can think about today's Bible story.

Why is Red always so angry? In this short film you can see a number of situations in Red's life. He was bullied because of his eyebrows and he was a foundling while he was still in his egg.

Why does this video fit in with today's Bible story?

Both Red and Zacchaeus don't really fit in the group. Red's defence mechanism is that he always reacts angrily and sullenly and keeps other birds at a distance. Zacchaeus has become wealthy at the expense of other people. Jesus does not allow himself to be chased away by Zacchaeus, but instead breaks through his wall. This changes him.

Important questions:

It is important to always watch the video yourself beforehand and ask yourself:

- Do I want to show this to the children?
- Does this video fit within the context and age group of the children I am working with?

If you choose to use this YouTube video within children's work, we suggest the following steps:=

Instructions:

Activity 1: Build a wall

Materials:

- plastic cups

Instructions:

Do: Have the children build a wall of plastic cups on a table - at least 10 cups wide and 5 cups high.

Ask:

- Who knows a famous wall in this world?
- Why do people build walls?
- Can you also build a wall in your own life? What does such a wall look like?

Tell: We are going to watch a short film about Red's wall.

Activity 2: Watch the video 'Red's Angry Story'

You can find the video here on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bWrfPJIDZ2U>

Activity 3: Straight through the wall

Ask:

- Who discovered in this video why Red is so angry?
- What pain did Red experience?
- How does he protect himself against this pain?

Tell: Red is a foundling. There was no mummy or daddy bird when he hatched his egg. While he was painting Red was really happy for a while, but then he was bullied because of his eyebrows. And what does Red do? He builds a wall of anger and grumpiness around him, so that other birds can't hurt him anymore.

Ask: - Does building a wall like that work?

Tell: Children and adults sometimes do this too. We build a wall around ourselves, so that other people can't get close to us anymore. Maybe because people have hurt us or because we are afraid they will hurt us.

Ask: Red builds a wall out of being angry.
- What other walls can you build?

(for example a wall of indifference, of being tough, of being a clown, of being good and kind etc.)

- Do you think that Zacchaeus had built a wall around him?
- What kind of wall, do you think?

Tell: Jesus is not scared off by other peoples' walls. Do you know what he does?

Do: Ask the children to go to the wall of cups. They are not allowed to touch the wall with their hands, but they are allowed to blow it down.

Tell: Jesus blows down the wall of Zacchaeus by inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house. Normally, a Rabbi would never visit a tax collector's house. That was unclean! But Jesus breaks right through this. He blows away the wall and light shines in Zacchaeus' heart.

Ask: How would Jesus deal with the walls in our lives today?

Experiment - What a difference!

Below you will find a video blog, in which Matthijs demonstrates an experiment that is both very simple and spectacular. Using iodine, starch and sodium thiosulphate, he shows how you can easily illustrate the story of the conversion of Zacchaeus yourself.

Materials:

- vases and glasses
- iodine
- ironing spray
- sodium thiosulphate

Instructions:

Watch the video to see how to do the experiment and tell the story of Zacchaeus.

Watch the video: <https://vimeo.com/192708898>

Let the children try this experiment for themselves!

Object lesson - Tell the story with eight sweets

A fun activity in which you use eight different kind of sweets to tell the Bible story of Zacchaeus. Afterwards you can let the children tell the story to each using these sweets.

Materials (per child):

- plate
- sachet
- two pieces of dark chocolate
- a piece of milk chocolate
- a liquorice coin (or other edible coin)
- a heart shaped sweet
- a cherry sweet
- a liquorice lace
- a marshmallow
- a piece of white chocolate

Preparation:

Lay out the sweets on eight different plates.

Instructions:

- Do:** Give all children an empty plate.
- Tell:** The name Zacchaeus means 'pure'. Pure in heart, that's what his parents intended him to be.
- Do:** To celebrate the fact that his name means 'pure', all children can take a piece of dark chocolate and put it on their plate.
- Tell:** But Zacchaeus did not want to be pure in heart. He wanted wealth and some protection. Maybe his name meant 'pure', but he was certainly not pure.
- Do:** All children can take a piece of milk chocolate and put it on their plate, because Zacchaeus is not pure.
- Tell:** Zacchaeus became wealthy by cheating on other people, by exploiting them and, if they didn't pay, by putting them in Jericho's prison. He was only interested in the money.
- Do:** All children are allowed to take a liquorice coin and put it on their plate.

Tell: Zacchaeus hears that Jesus is travelling through Jericho. He has heard all about Jesus, and especially he has heard that Jesus is very different to him.

Do: To celebrate the fact that Jesus is very different from Zacchaeus, the children may take a heart shaped sweet and put it on their plate.

Tell: Zacchaeus is a little man and to see Jesus, he climbs into a tree.

Do: To remind them that Zacchaeus climbed a tree, the children are allowed to take a cherry sweet and put it on their plate.

Tell: Jesus sees Zacchaeus and says, "Come down, Zacchaeus. I want to stay with you today."

Zacchaeus had to climb out of the tree quickly. He may have needed a rope for this.

Do: To remember that Zacchaeus climbed out of the tree quickly, the children may take a liquorice lace as a rope and put it on their plate.

Tell: There's a big party that evening in Zacchaeus' house.

Do: All children are allowed to put a marshmallow on their plates because of the big party.

Tell: Zacchaeus is a changed man. He gives half of his possessions to the poor and gives back four times as much to people from whom he has stolen.

Jesus says that he has been saved.

Do: The children may take a piece of white chocolate, because Jesus found and saved Zacchaeus. Things are alright again. He is now also a son of Abraham.

Ask: Do you think that Zacchaeus really was pure in heart after this evening like his name?

Do: To celebrate the fact that Zacchaeus is now truly dark in heart, the children are allowed to take another piece of dark chocolate.

Each child should now have two pieces of dark chocolate, a piece of milk chocolate, a liquorice coin, heart-shaped sweet, a cherry sweet, a liquorice laces and a marshmallow on their plate.

Let them put the sweets in a bag and take them home.

Note: If you have children in your group who are not allowed to eat certain sweets for health reasons, it is better not to do this activity

Object Lesson - Imagine it together...

Tell the story of Zacchaeus, while you act it out with the children. In this way you can bring the story of Zacchaeus to life!

Instructions:

Tell: Zacchaeus was a tax collector, the people had to pay him to be able to use the road.

Do: Extend your arm out to the side like a lever

Tell: Zacchaeus raised that money, tax, for the Emperor. **Do:** Pretend to take money with your other hand.

Tell: But he asked too much money from the people and put that extra money in his own pocket.

Do: Pretend to take the money and put it in your pocket. Raise your other hand (the lever) so that the people can pass and use the road.

Tell: This made him very rich and he was able to buy beautiful clothes.

Do: Run your hands over your arms as if you are admiring your clothes.

Tell: But that's why people didn't like him.

Do: Look down sadly.

Tell: One day he heard the people talking about Jesus. **Do:** Put your hand behind your ear.

Tell: Jesus was coming here, to Jericho.

Do: Look surprised, and put a hand in front of your mouth.

Tell: All the people came to look at Jesus, it was getting busier and busier. Zacchaeus was not big, so he would never be able to see Jesus.

Do: Stand on your toes and act as if you are trying to look over something.

Tell: That's why he climbed a tree.

Do: Pretend you are climbing a tree, stand on a chair if necessary.

Tell: Oh look, Jesus is coming!

Do: Point your finger in the distance.

Tell: Huh, but what is Jesus doing? He stands still and looks up.

- Do:** Look frightened.
- Tell:** Jesus says to come down.
- Do:** Pretend you are climbing down quickly.
- Tell:** And that he wants to eat at Zacchaeus' home.
- Do:** Look surprised and then do a little dance.
- Tell:** It's wonderful to be with Jesus!
- Do:** Look very happy.
- Tell:** Zacchaeus now realizes that he has done many wrong things, he is very sorry.
- Do:** Look down.
- Tell:** That's why Zacchaeus gives half of his things to poor people.
- Do:** Pretend you're giving stuff away.
- Tell:** And he gives back the money that he took from people and put in his own pocket. He gives much more away than he stole.
- Do:** Pretend to take money out of your pocket and give it away, then do the same with your other pocket.
- Tell:** Zacchaeus feels happier than ever, even without all the money.
- Do:** Look very happy.

Object lesson - Zacchaeus, pure in heart

Do you know what the name Zacchaeus means? It means 'pure' or 'pure in heart'. Is this name a joke or a promise? Discover it in this activity...

Materials:

- 10 or 11 A4 pieces of paper – with one or two words of the following text written or printed on each piece of paper: Blessed are you if you are pure in heart, because then you will see God.
- string
- pegs

Preparation:

Hang up a piece of string long enough to peg all 10 -11 sheets of paper on.

Instructions

Do: Hang the different A4 sheets with this text on them completely out order on the line. Ask the children for help to get the text right.

Then, one by one, remove the sheets of paper and see if the children say the sentence out loud every time a sheet of paper has been removed: "Blessed are you if you are pure in heart, because then you will see God".

Ask: - Who knows who said this sentence?

Tell: Jesus said this during the Sermon on the Mount.

Ask:

- What do you think it means to be pure in heart?
- What does it mean, do you think, to see God? Is that with your eyes?
- What does "blessed" mean?

Tell: In the time of Jesus, many names had a meaning.

Ask: - Who knows what the name Zacchaeus means?

Tell: It means "pure" or "pure in heart".

Ask:

- Is this name a joke or a promise?
- Is Zacchaeus pure in heart at the beginning of the Bible story?
- Is Zacchaeus pure in heart at the end of the Bible story?
- Did he or did he not see God, do you think?

Game - Take off those socks...

Zacchaeus exploited the people in Jericho. As a tax collector he went for the money and not for their well-being. If he had to, he would have someone undress up to his shirt.

Instructions:

- Tell:** Zacchaeus exploited the people in Jericho. As a tax collector he went for the money and not for their welfare. If he had to, he would have taken the shirt off their backs.
- Do:** Ask everyone to take off their shoes, and pull their socks half off. The aim of the game is to try and get the socks off each other's feet by standing on them loose socks. The last one with at least one socks wins.
- Note:** Check if this game fits your group. Make sure that children don't tread on each other's feet. They are not allowed to touch each other with their hands.

Game - The night watchman

Jesus sees Zacchaeus sitting up there in the tree. Can the Night Watchman find the children?

Materials:

- a darkened room

Instructions:

This game is played in the dark... Choose one child to go and stand in the corridor. All the other children are given a number. Then they hide themselves in the dark room and the night watchman comes in.

He or she then says: "The night watchman is coming and the clock strikes (a number) o'clock.

The person who has that number makes the sound of an animal. The night watchman has to try and find the person and guess who it is.

Game - Tax collector's coin toss

In our story today, Zacchaeus was a tax collector. His job was to collect coins from the people for the Romans. To help us understand his job, let's see how well we can handle coins ourselves with a fun game of "Tax collector's coin toss".

Materials:

- play coins or real coins if suitable
- several jars or buckets

Instructions:

Arrange the jars or buckets at varying distances from the starting point.

Provide each child with an equal number of play coins.

Each child takes a turn tossing coins into the jars. Points can be assigned based on the distance of the jars, with farther jars worth more points.

The child who scores the most points wins the game.

This game not only provides fun but also offers a simple, hands-on way for children to connect with Zacchaeus's story. They will get a sense of handling coins and understand a part of Zacchaeus's daily life as a tax collector.

Game - Zacchaeus repentance relay

Zacchaeus's story is a wonderful example of repentance and making amends. After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus decided to give back what he had wrongly taken. In our game, "Zacchaeus Repentance Relay", we'll be doing a fun relay race that symbolizes Zacchaeus's change of heart.

Materials:

- play coins or real coins if suitable
- two buckets for each team

Instructions:

Divide the children into teams and give each team two buckets. Place one bucket at each end of the room.

Fill one bucket for each team with an equal number of play coins.

The first child in each team takes a coin from their bucket, runs to the other end of the room, and deposits the coin in their team's second bucket.

After depositing the coin, the child runs back to their team and the next child takes their turn.

The relay continues until one team has successfully transferred all their coins from the first bucket to the second, signifying Zacchaeus's act of returning what he had taken.

This game provides a lively and engaging way to illustrate Zacchaeus's repentance and the action he took to correct his mistakes, thereby enabling children to connect with the story more deeply.

Game - Zacchaeus's sycamore sprint

Remember how Zacchaeus had to scramble up a sycamore tree to see Jesus? We're going to recreate that in a fun way with our game, "Zacchaeus's Sycamore Sprint". It's a variation of musical chairs that will get us moving and laughing!

Materials:

- chairs (one less than the number of children)
- music player and music

Instructions:

Arrange the chairs in a circle, with the seats facing outward. These chairs represent the 'sycamore trees'.

When the music starts, children have to walk, hop, or dance around the circle of chairs.

When the music stops, children have to find a 'sycamore tree' (chair) to sit on as quickly as they can, just like Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus.

The child who doesn't find a chair to sit on when the music stops is out of the game.

Remove one chair and start the music again for the next round.

The game continues until there is one child left, the winner of the "Zacchaeus's Sycamore Sprint".

Through this game, children can have a great time while also gaining a sense of the urgency Zacchaeus felt in his desire to see Jesus, enhancing their understanding and connection with the story.

Craft - Build a marshmallow tree

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus and climbs a tree. But what if there was no tree? Could we have built a tree for Zacchaeus with marshmallows?

Materials:

- marshmallows
- spaghetti
- empty plastic surprise egg

Instructions:

Divide the children into groups.

Give each group a large number of small marshmallows, a handful of spaghetti and an empty surprise egg.

Can the children build a tree in which the surprise egg can sit, just as Zacchaeus sat in the tree?

Craft - Coin rubbing art

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the Bible, which means he collected coins from people as taxes. Today, we're going to make a unique piece of art that shows what Zacchaeus' job might have looked like. We'll use different coins to create coin rubbings, a fun way to make prints of the coins, just like a real tax collector!

Materials:

- different types of coins (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, etc.)
- white paper
- crayons with the paper removed
- masking tape (optional)

Instructions:

Place your white paper on a flat, hard surface. If you're worried about your paper moving around, you can use masking tape to secure the corners of your paper to the surface.

Decide on which coin you'd like to start with. Position the coin under your paper where you'd like its rubbing to appear.

Take a crayon, making sure the paper is removed, and hold it sideways, so the long edge of the crayon is against the paper.

Gently rub the crayon back and forth over the paper where the coin is. You'll start to see the coin's imprint appearing!

Repeat this process with different coins, filling up your paper with different coin rubbings. You can use different colours for each coin or create a monochrome piece using just one colour.

Once you're satisfied with your piece of art, you can sign your name and display it!

This coin rubbing craft activity is a great way to connect children with the story of Zacchaeus and helps them understand his profession as a tax collector. It's also a fun way to create unique art!

Craft - Zacchaeus's changed heart

The story of Zacchaeus tells us about a man whose heart and life were changed after meeting Jesus. Zacchaeus transformed from a greedy tax collector to a generous person who cared about others. Today, we're going to create a craft that symbolizes Zacchaeus's changed heart. This two-sided heart will show us the before and after of Zacchaeus's transformation.

Materials:

- two large pieces of construction paper
- scissors
- crayons, markers, or coloured pencils
- glue or a stapler
- ribbon or string
- hole puncher

Instructions:

Start by folding the two pieces of construction paper in half. On one piece of paper, draw half a heart shape starting from the folded edge.

Cut out the half-heart shape while the paper is still folded. When you unfold the paper, you will have a full heart shape. Repeat this process on the second piece of paper so you have two identical heart shapes.

On one heart, draw or write things that represent what Zacchaeus might have done before he met Jesus. This could include collecting too much tax money, being dishonest, or being disliked by others.

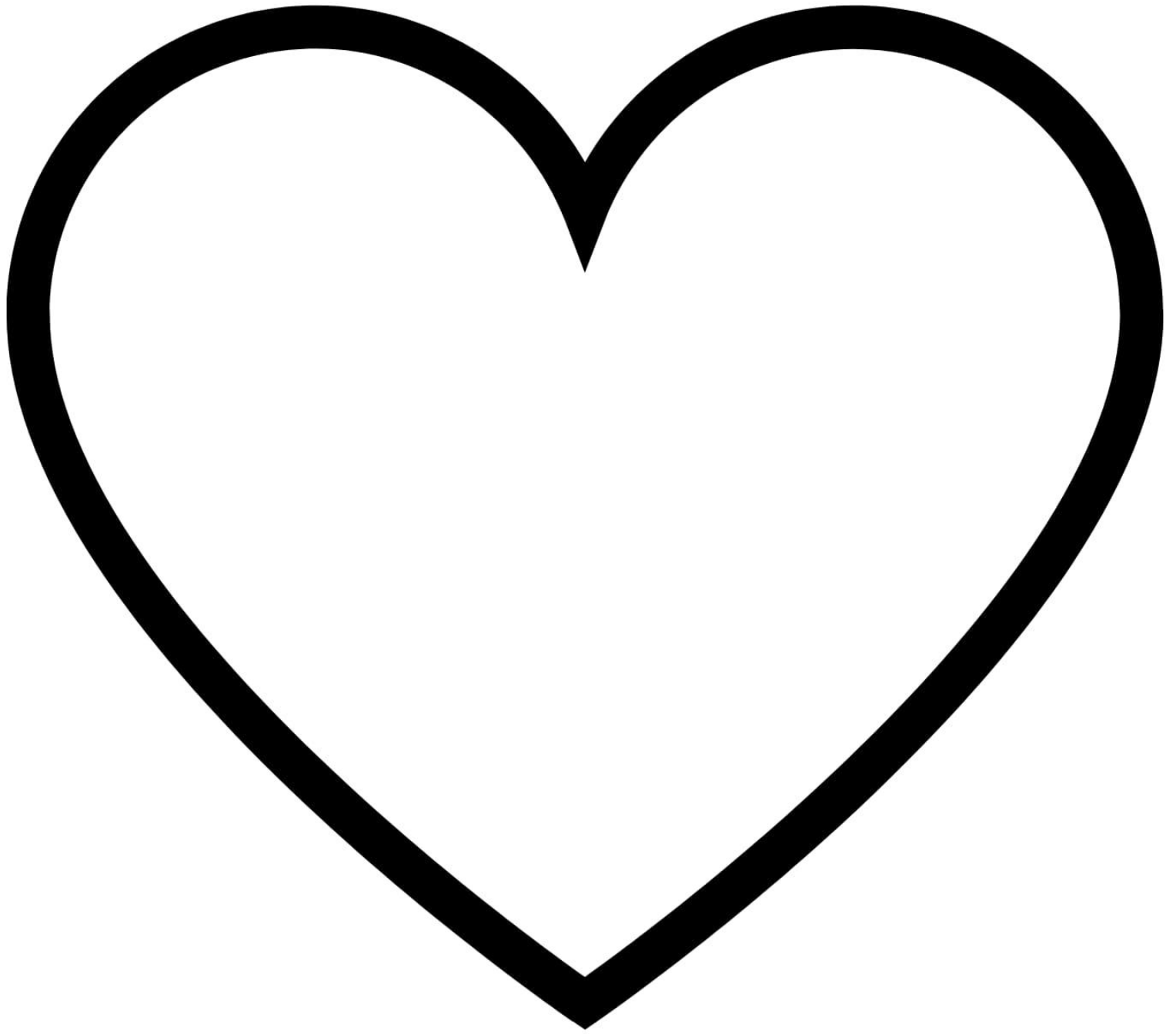
On the second heart, draw or write how Zacchaeus changed after meeting Jesus. This could include giving money to the poor, returning money he had taken, and being kind and honest.

After you've finished decorating, align the two hearts back-to-back.

Punch a hole in the top of the hearts and thread your ribbon or string through the hole. Tie the ribbon or string in a loop.

You can then either glue the hearts together along the edges or use a stapler to secure them. Leave an area at the bottom unglued or unstapled so you can open and close your Zacchaeus's Changed Heart craft.

This craft helps remind us of the transformation that took place in Zacchaeus's heart and life after he met Jesus. We can open the heart to see the change from the inside!



Craft - Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree

One of the most memorable parts of Zacchaeus's story is when he climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. In this craft, we'll be creating our very own 3D sycamore tree with Zacchaeus peeping out from the branches, reminding us of Zacchaeus's determination to seek Jesus.

Materials:

- a toilet paper roll (for the tree trunk)
- green construction paper (for the leaves)
- brown paint and paintbrush
- scissors
- glue
- a small Zacchaeus cut-out or a small paper doll to represent Zacchaeus

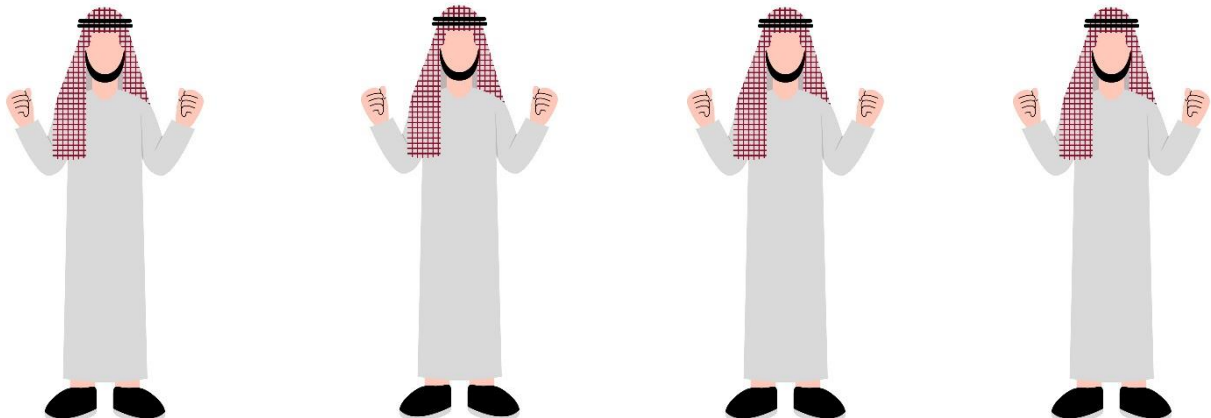
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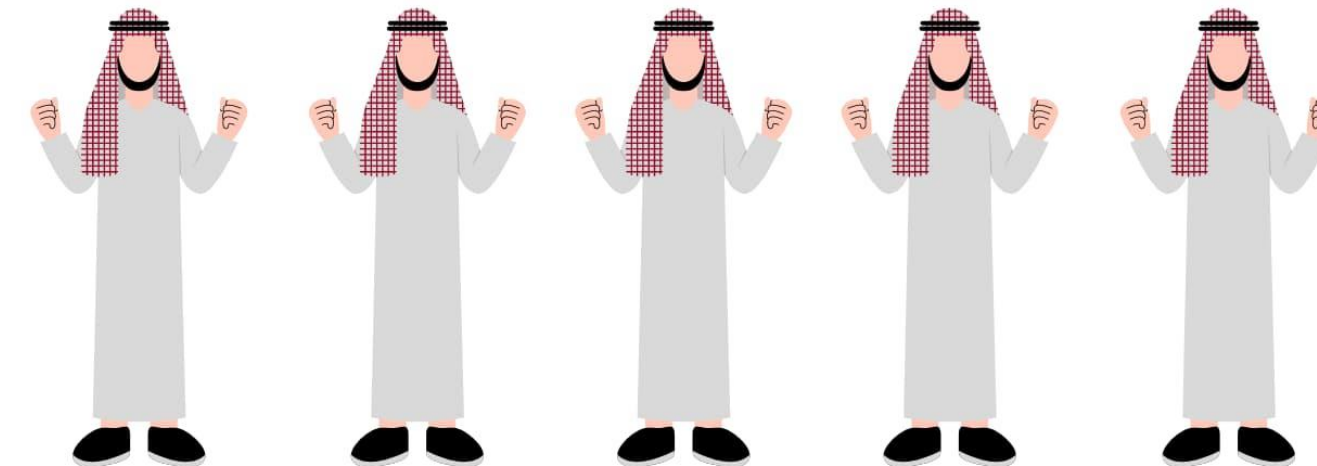
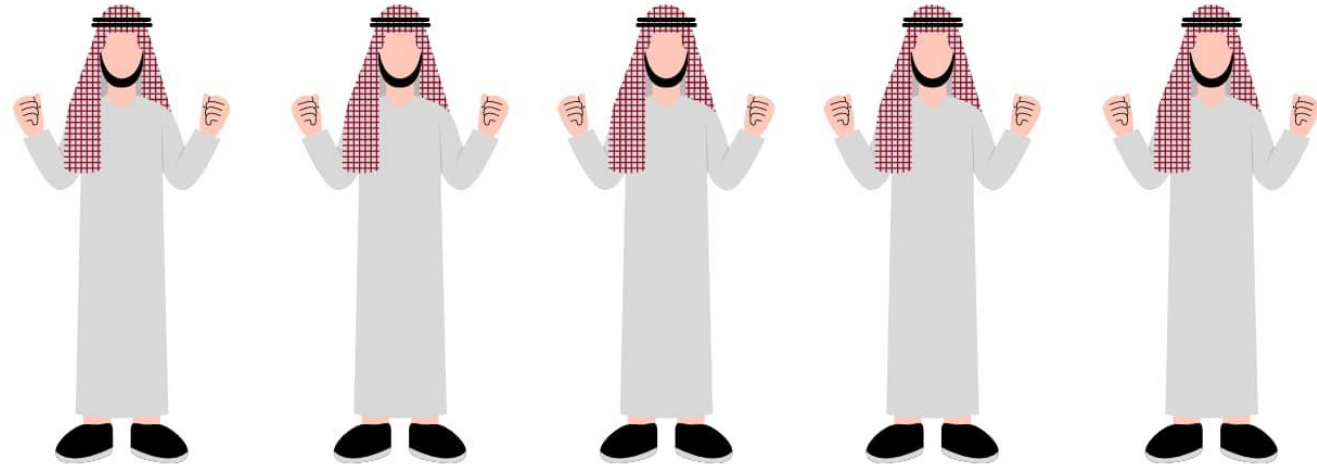
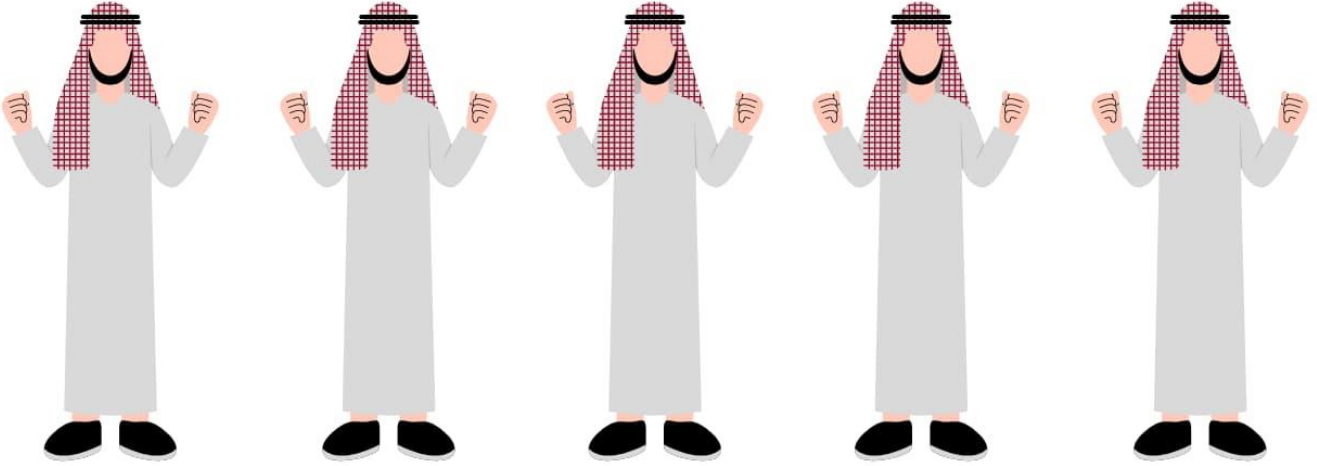
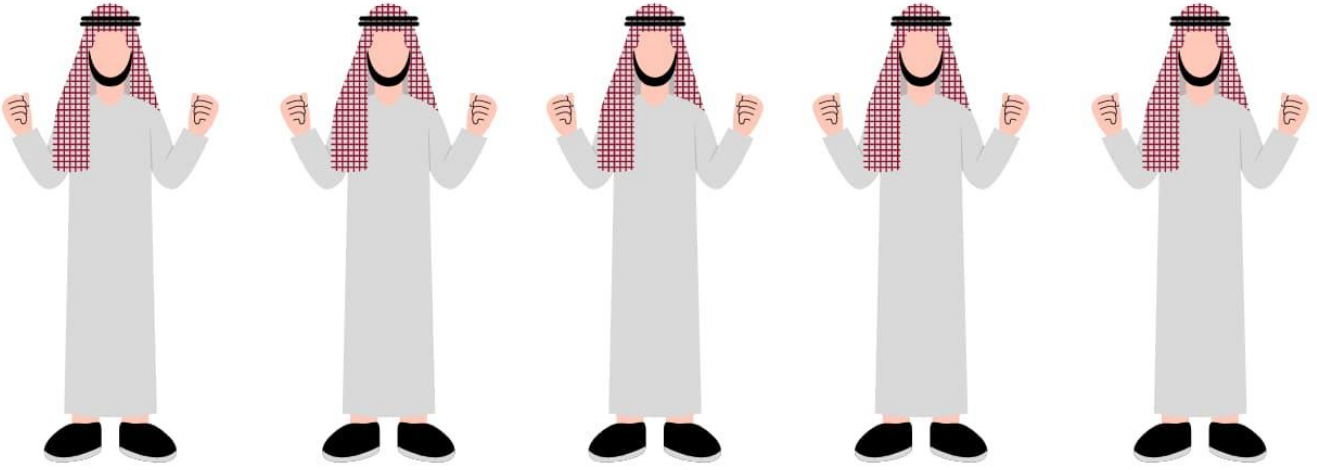
Start by painting the toilet paper roll with brown paint to represent the trunk of the sycamore tree. Let it dry completely.

While your toilet paper roll is drying, take the green construction paper and cut out several leaf shapes. The leaves of the sycamore tree are quite distinctive, looking a bit like large maple leaves, but any leaf shape will do for our craft.

Once the paint is dry, begin to glue your green leaves to the top of the toilet paper roll. Stick them around the rim, so they begin to look like the top of a tree. You can also cut small slits around the top of the roll and insert the leaves for a more 3D effect.

After you've glued your leaves and they've had a chance to dry, it's time to add Zacchaeus! Take your Zacchaeus cut-out or paper doll and glue him to the side of the toilet paper roll, amongst the leaves. Make sure only part of Zacchaeus is glued and the rest is free, so it looks like he's peeping out or climbing the tree.





Prayer idea - Leaves of prayer

Prayer is a beautiful way to communicate with God, expressing our thoughts, thanks, and praises. Through our "Leaves of prayer" activity, we'll create a vibrant prayer tree that represents our collective conversation with God.

Materials:

- sheets of green paper in various shades
- scissors
- glue
- pens
- a large piece of cardboard
- a cardboard figure of Zacchaeus

Preparation:

Draw or paint a bare tree on the large piece of cardboard.

Instructions:

Begin by having the children cut out leaves from the sheets of green paper. These leaves can be all sorts of shapes and sizes, just like in nature.

Each leaf represents a prayer to God. It could be a question, a word of thanks, or an expression of praise.

Invite the children to write or draw their prayers on their leaves. If they're comfortable, they can also share with the group what their leaf represents.

Once everyone has completed their leaves, it's time to bring our prayer tree to life. In turns, have the children glue their leaves onto the tree. As more leaves are added, our tree will become a vibrant display of our prayers.

Once all the leaves have been added, attach the cardboard figure of Zacchaeus to the tree. This reminds us of Zacchaeus's eagerness to see Jesus and his openness to change.

Our prayer tree serves as a visual reminder of our shared prayers and our journey in faith, just like Zacchaeus's journey in the story.

Prayer idea - Tax collector's bag of prayers

Zacchaeus, as a tax collector, dealt with a lot of issues and concerns. To help us reflect on the broader world and its challenges, we'll use our "Tax Collector's Bag of Prayers". This activity helps us focus our prayers on various issues affecting people around the world.

Materials:

- a bag
- paper notes with various issues written on them (such as "sickness", "war", "hunger", "poverty")

Instructions:

Mix all the paper notes in the bag. Each note represents a different issue that people face.

Pass the bag around, allowing each child to reach in and pull out a note.

Encourage the children to pray silently about the issue they've picked, asking God to bring relief and solutions.

If they feel comfortable, they can share their prayers aloud with the rest of the group.

This activity creates an interactive prayer time where children are encouraged to empathize with and pray for others, reflecting on the wider world beyond their immediate surroundings, just as Zacchaeus had to consider his impact on his community.

Prayer idea - Roll-a-prayer cubes

Prayer can take many forms - it could be a thank you, a request for help, or an expression of love. Our "Roll-a-Prayer Cubes" activity introduces this concept in a fun, interactive way that engages children in different types of prayers.

Materials:

- paper cubes (can be made from a printable template)
- pens or markers
- a list of different types of prayers (thanks, praise, sorry, ask, talk, listen)
- scissors
- glue

Instructions:

On each side of the paper cube, write a different type of prayer prompt. These could include "Give Thanks", "Say Sorry", "Ask for Help", "Praise God", etc. You can also glue the words on the sides of the cube.

Once the cubes are ready, gather the children in a circle.

Let each child take turns rolling a prayer cube.

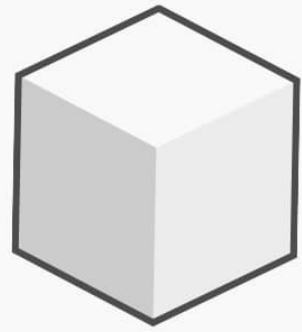
After rolling, the child should say a prayer that matches the prompt that landed face up on the cube.

Encourage the child to say the prayer out loud, but assure them that it's okay to say it silently in their heart if they prefer.

The "Roll-a-Prayer Cubes" activity creates an engaging and varied prayer experience. It prompts children to think about different aspects of prayer and helps them to feel more comfortable with praying in various ways, much like Zacchaeus had to approach prayer and repentance from a new perspective.

ROLL A PRAYER CUBE

- ** Cut the six words and glue one on each surface.
- ** Cut the cube from its outer lines.
- ** Fold and paste from the cut lines.



**DRAW/PAINT
CUT/PASTE**



PRAISE

LISTEN

THANKS

TALK

SORRY

ASK

