

ZACCHAEUS

Bible Text: Luke 19:1-11

Lesson Focus: Jesus' welcome transforms our life and behavior.

Big Question: How am I changed because Jesus welcomes me?

Key Words: TAX COLLECTOR, SEEK, SAVE

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, which meant he was considered unclean.
-] Tax collectors were often viewed as corrupt people who stole from the poor.
-] Needless to say, fans of Jesus didn't care for people like Zacchaeus.
-] Jesus sought out Zacchaeus when he entered Jericho.
-] When Jesus invites himself over for supper, he breaks down religious and social barriers.
-] Zacchaeus promises to repay the people he cheated.
-] In this story, Jesus gives us a new definition of "clean" and "unclean."
-] This story gives us the promise that God looks out for us, and it challenges us to see everyone as a child of God.

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] What makes you laugh about this cartoon?
-] Do you think Zacchaeus was only doing his job?
-] Jesus loved and forgave Zacchaeus before Zacchaeus gave the money back to the people he had cheated. What does the order of those two things mean for us?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 284: How to Tell a Sinner from a Saint

-] What's the difference between these two images? Why is that so?

Here We Stand Student Book page 254: How to Repent

-] How does repentance apply to the story of Zacchaeus?
-] Why is repenting difficult to do?

Here We Stand Student Book page 148: What to Bring to a Church Potluck (by Region)

-] Do they feel any of the information is accurate for your region?
-] Imagine that Jesus has just invited himself to dinner at your house. What would you serve for the meal on short notice? Would this section of the Student Book be helpful?

LIFE CONNECTION

Do you sometimes feel that you're too much of a loser for God to love you? The good news is that nobody is too lost, too messed up, or too sinful for God's love. If you're feeling down right now, read Luke 19:1-10 every day this week. When you're done, say something like, "God loves me no matter what." If you're feeling pretty good these days, find someone else who appears to be struggling. Tell them the good news of God's surprising love for them.

ZACCHAEUS

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter that best answers each question.

JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

1. Jesus entered the town of ____ when Zacchaeus spotted him.
a. Jerusalem c. Jericho
b. Bethlehem d. Tarsus
2. Zacchaeus invited Jesus over to his house for ____.
a. supper. c. a game of table tennis.
b. Bible study. d. Zacchaeus didn't invite Jesus.
3. How much did Zacchaeus promise to repay anyone he had cheated?
a. Two times what he owed.
b. Three times what he owed.
c. Four times what he owed.
d. 50 percent of what he owed.
4. Salvation came to Zacchaeus's house because ____.
a. he was a child of God and a descendant of Abraham.
b. he agreed to repay people.
c. he made a really tasty mutton, lettuce, and tomato sandwich.
d. he had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

CLEAN OR UNCLEAN

Indicate whether the Jewish law considered the following people clean or unclean.

1. A person who eats pork
a. clean b. unclean
2. Someone with an illness
a. clean b. unclean
3. Someone who touches a dead person
a. clean b. unclean
4. A Jew who works with a Gentile
a. clean b. unclean

TRAITS OF A TAX COLLECTOR

1. In Jesus' day, tax collectors were considered ____.
a. good guys, like Robin Hood.
b. bad guys who cheated people out of money.
c. noble citizens who represented good government.
d. poor and uneducated.
2. Tax collectors would collect money for ____.
a. the Roman government.
b. themselves.
c. both a and b.
d. neither a nor b.
3. In addition to being corrupt, tax collectors were also thought of as _____.
a. pimps.
b. soldiers in the army.
c. retirement fund planners.
d. spiritually unclean.
4. Zacchaeus collected taxes on behalf of the ____ government.
a. Roman c. Jesuit
b. Israeli d. American

LAW OR GOSPEL

Indicate whether the statement represents something from the law or gospel.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
a. law b. gospel
2. You have been saved by grace through faith.
a. law b. gospel
3. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
a. law b. gospel
4. You shall not commit adultery.
a. law b. gospel

Answers: Jesus and Zacchaeus 1. c 2. d 3. a 4. a Clean or Unclean 1. b 2. b 3. b 4. b Traits of a Tax Collector 1. b 2. c 3. d 4. a Law or Gospel 1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a