

- **TELL THE BIBLE STORY**

- ' Direct kids to locate Luke 19 in their Bibles. Explain that today's Bible story is found in this chapter. Guide kids to find Luke 19:2. Ask them to look at the verse and find a name that begins with Z. Pronounce Zacchaeus (za KEE uhs) and let kids echo you. Ask: "Who has heard the story of Zacchaeus before?" Suggest that those who have heard about Zacchaeus listen extra carefully to discover any new information they can.
- ' Open a Bible to Luke 19 and tell the Bible story in your own words.
- ' **Option:** Show the "Notebook Bible Story" video.

- **TELL THE BIBLE STORY: JESUS LOVED ZACCHAEUS**

Jesus came to the town of Jericho. Zacchaeus was in Jericho. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. During this time, tax collectors often charged people more taxes than they owed and kept the extra for themselves. The people did not like tax collectors because they took so much money and made themselves rich. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but he couldn't. He was a short man, and he could not see over the crowd. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could watch Jesus pass by and see over the crowds. Imagine Zacchaeus' surprise when Jesus stopped at the very tree where Zacchaeus was! Jesus stopped and looked up. He said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I need to stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus must have been surprised at Jesus' kind words to a tax collector. He quickly came down and welcomed Jesus. People in the crowd complained, saying, "Jesus is going to stay with a sinful man!"

Zacchaeus said to Jesus, “I will give half of everything I own to the poor. If I have taken money unfairly from anyone, I will pay back four times as much!”

Jesus said, “Salvation has come here today. I have come to look for and to save people who are without God.”

—BASED ON LUKE 19:1-10

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- In what town did Zacchaeus live? (*Jericho*)
- What job did Zacchaeus have? (*tax collector*)
- Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree? (*He was too short to see Jesus over the crowd.*)
- What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus in the tree? (*Hurry down. I must stay with you today.*)
- What did the crowd complain about? (*Jesus was going to stay with a sinner.*)
- What did Zacchaeus offer to do with his money? (*give half to the poor and pay back four times what he had taken unfairly*)
- What is an example of treating an enemy with love? (*Answers will vary.*)
- Who will God help you to love? (*everyone*)