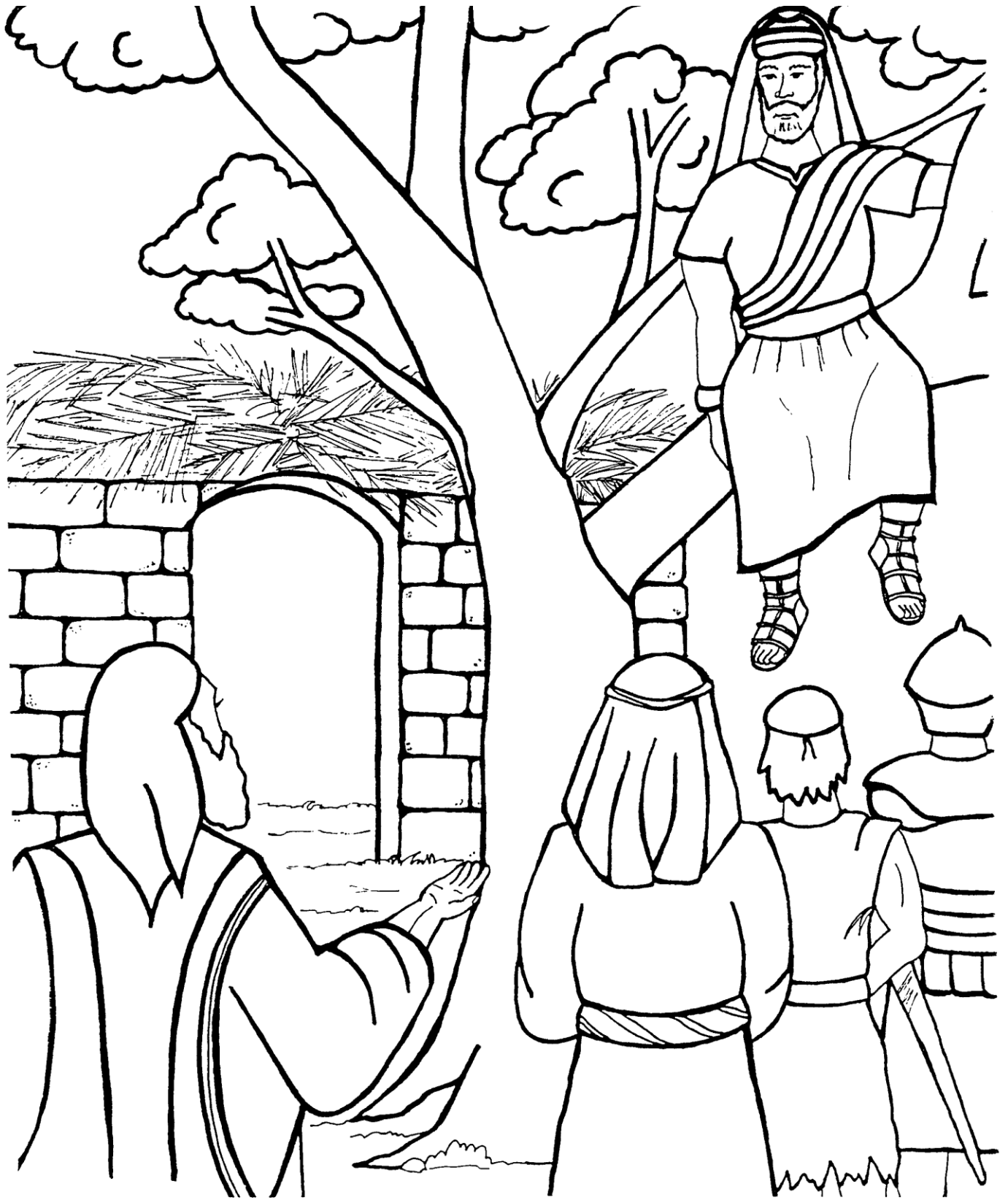


**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 216: ZACCHAEUS**  
**LUKE 19:1-10**

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, and a very important tax collector. He wanted to see who Jesus was. There were many others who wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus was too short to see above all the people. So he ran to a place where he knew Jesus would come. Then he climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Him. When Jesus came to where Zacchaeus was, He looked up and saw him in the tree. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, hurry! Come down! I must stay at your house today." Zacchaeus hurried and came down. He was happy to have Jesus in his house. Everyone saw this. They began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus is staying with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!" Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "I want to do good. I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have accused anyone falsely, I will pay them back four times more." Jesus said, "Today is the day for this family to be saved from sin. Yes, even this tax collector is one of God's chosen people. The Son of Man came to seek and save those things that are lost."

## 216. ZACCHAEUS

LUKE 19:1-10



Zacchaeus climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

*LUKE 19:4*

# 216. ZACCHAEUS

## LUKE 19:1-10

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"...For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost."* **LUKE 19:10**

### **Review Questions**

#### **True or False**

1. There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a tax collector, and he was very poor.
2. He wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the people.
3. He ran ahead and climbed up on top of a house to see Jesus as He passed by.
4. When Jesus passed by, He looked up and saw him, and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come down because today I must stay at your house."
5. Zacchaeus hurried up and came down, because he was scared to have Jesus stay at his house.

#### **Questions**

1. Why couldn't Zacchaeus see Jesus when He passed by?
2. What did Zacchaeus do to be able to see Jesus?
3. What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus when He looked up and saw him in the tree?
4. When Zacchaeus came down out of the tree, what did he say he wanted to do?
5. Were the other people in the crowd happy that Jesus was going to go and stay at Zacchaeus' house? Why not?
6. After Zacchaeus told Jesus that he wanted to give all his things to the poor, and that he wanted to repay anyone he falsely accused four times what they lost, what did Jesus say was going to happen to Zacchaeus' family?

## Lesson 216 Activity

### The Tax Collector and the Prize Vendor

Cut several small pieces of green paper to represent money. Pass out an equal amount of money to each child in your class (give them about 6 pieces of paper each). Appoint a child to be the tax collector and have him levy a tax of one “dollar” for every letter in the child’s name. This will create inequity among the class. Appoint another child as the prize vendor. Have him distribute a small prize to each child in the class if they have enough money to pay for one (charge 2 ‘dollars’). The children with long names in your class will not have enough to pay for their prize. (they will get mad and tell you how it’s not fair!)

Explain to your class that today they learned about a tax collector who collected taxes unfairly and made life very difficult for the people of Jericho, just like this ‘tax collector’ made things difficult for them. After making your point, distribute prizes or a piece of candy to the children who were excluded earlier.

Zacchaeus was not a harmless "wee little man." He was a cheat, a thief, and a bully. We read in that Zacchaeus was a tax collector. And he was rich. Those two things put together make us realize that Zacchaeus had been doing wrong things among the people of Jericho.

He had the job of collecting taxes from the people. That is not so bad. We pay taxes today too. That means if I bought a new jump rope that cost \$2. I would pay \$2 for the jump rope and then have to also pay taxes on the jump rope. Perhaps I would pay \$2.14 for the jump rope. The extra 14 cents would be the tax.

Zacchaeus was a man who collected the taxes people owed for living in Jericho. But things were different back then than they are today. The tax collectors would demand the money for the Roman government and add some more for themselves to live on, like their salary. If they had only added a little bit, it would have been okay. This is how the Roman government allowed them to get their income. If they added the right amount they would not get rich, they would just have enough to live on comfortably.

Zacchaeus was rich. That means he demanded too much money of the people he collected taxes from. If they bought a jump rope for \$2.00 instead of adding 14 cents for Roman tax and a little bit more for his personal income, he added a lot more for himself. We also know this because he admits later to taking what was not his.

Doing that to all the people in his area made him very rich and made the people a lot poorer. He cheated them out of their hard-earned money with the power the Roman government had given him. The people did not respect or like wicked tax collectors like Zacchaeus, but Jesus helped him change his heart and become honest!

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to receive Jesus with joy. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.