



Jesus Forgives Zacchaeus

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Jesus was walking one day through the town of Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and many people did not like him. They said that Zacchaeus was very rich because he cheated people.

A crowd of people gathered around Jesus as He walked through Jericho. Zacchaeus was short. He wanted to see Jesus. But there were so many people in the crowd. Zacchaeus could not see Jesus over the people's heads. What would Zacchaeus do?

Suddenly he got an idea. He saw a tree. Zacchaeus knew Jesus would have to walk near the tree. Zacchaeus ran to the tree and climbed up into it. He sat on the branches of the tree so that he could see Jesus.

When He was right under

the tree, Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down from the tree right away. I am going to your house today." Quickly Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree and welcomed Jesus to his home. People wondered why Jesus would do this. "Zacchaeus is a sinner. He cheats people," they said. They didn't understand that Jesus came to save sinners.

But Jesus changed Zacchaeus's heart. Zacchaeus was sorry for his sins. He told Jesus. "Lord, I am going to give half my money to the poor people. And I will give anyone I have cheated four times the amount I took."

Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to your house, Zacchaeus. For I have come to find and save people who are lost."

Jesus changes our hearts.

Parents: Sit with your child together under a tree. Or sit safely in the low branches of a tree. Talk with your child about Zacchaeus and how Jesus changed his heart. Tell your child that Jesus changes hearts through His Word. Point out that we have Jesus' Word in the Bible. Jesus changes us from unbelievers to saved and forgiven people who follow Him.