GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

Luke 19:1-10



YOUR BIBLE READING

Meeting Jesus led Zacchaeus toward generosity and putting wrongs right.

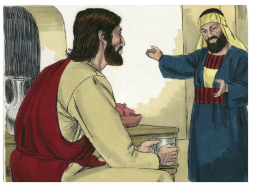
Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Man Above the Crowd

Luke 19:1-10



Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through the town. A man named Zacchaeus wanted to see who he was. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. The crowd made seeing difficult, because Zacchaeus was short. Luke tells us both about his important job and about this ordinary problem: he could not look over the people between himself and the person he wanted to see.

Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree along the route Jesus would take. From there he could see above the crowd. The story does not give the tree a special name or tell us who else stood beneath it. Its place in the account is clear: it brought the man who wanted a view to the point where Jesus would stop and speak directly to him.

When Jesus reached the tree, he looked up and called Zacchaeus by name. He told him to come down quickly, because he needed to stay at his house that day. Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus joyfully. He had set out to see Jesus from a distance. Now the visitor himself had spoken to him and announced a meeting in his own home in front of the crowd.

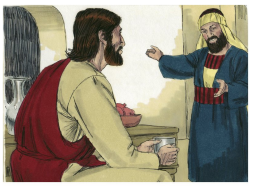
The people watching began to complain. They said Jesus had gone to stay with a sinner. Their words showed how they judged the visit, but Jesus did not withdraw his welcome. Luke does not ask us to invent a speech about all of Zacchaeus's past actions. The next words he records are the man's own statement about generosity and about putting right any money he had wrongly taken.

Remember: A changed heart shows itself through fair and generous actions.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Welcome That Opened a New Way

Luke 19:1-10



Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and spoke about his possessions. He would give half of what he had to poor people. He also said that if he had cheated anyone, he would repay four times the amount. These were practical words about money, people, and repair. They went beyond saying that he was pleased to have an important guest. He was naming actions that would change how he treated others.

Giving to people in need and repaying someone who had been cheated are related, but they are not the same thing. Zacchaeus named both. A generous gift to one person does not erase a wrong done to another. His statement included people who needed help and people who might need something returned. Jesus' welcome had become the setting for this serious response about the use of his wealth.

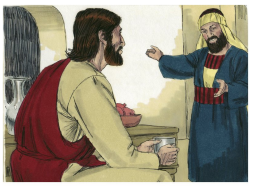
Jesus said that salvation had come to that house. He reminded the listeners that Zacchaeus too was a son of Abraham. Then he described his own mission: the Son of Man had come to seek and save what was lost. The man the crowd had placed outside its circle of approval was not outside Jesus' concern. His place in Abraham's family was not something the crowd could simply erase.

The account ends with Jesus explaining his purpose rather than with a detailed list of later payments. Luke records Zacchaeus's promise, and we should not invent the names of people he repaid or the conversations that followed. What we can see is the movement of the story: a man sought a glimpse, Jesus offered a personal welcome, and the man answered with concrete commitments about generosity and fairness.

Pause and think: What could repairing a mistake look like beyond simply saying that you are sorry?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Putting a Wrong Right



Think about the difference between saying sorry and repairing something. If you damage a borrowed pencil, an apology matters, but telling the owner and asking an adult how to replace it may matter too. Making amends is not a way to buy someone's love. It is a way to take responsibility for what happened and help with the result of your action.

Zacchaeus spoke about both sharing and repayment. You can practice fairness without having a great deal of money. Returning a borrowed item, giving credit for someone else's work, or admitting when you took a larger share are ordinary beginnings. An adult can help you choose a response that fits your age and the situation, especially when a mistake feels too large to handle alone.

The crowd thought Jesus should keep his distance. Jesus saw a person he had come to reach. We should be careful about treating someone as if their worst choice tells their whole story. Welcoming a person does not mean calling a harmful action good; it can create room for honesty, responsibility, and a different next step.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus, whose response joined generosity with making wrongs right.

What could repairing a mistake look like beyond simply saying that you are sorry?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb a tree?

2. What did he say about anyone he had cheated?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Jesus calls him down and is welcomed to his home.
- ☐ Zacchaeus speaks of giving and repaying what was taken.
- ☐ Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Jesus looking up at Zacchaeus in the tree.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

A changed heart shows itself through fair and generous actions.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Luke 19:8-10

A thoughtful conversation

Zacchaeus' response is not a payment that buys Jesus' love. Jesus welcomes him first. For children, making amends should be practical and supported by a trusted adult, without unsafe climbing.

Activity answers

1. He was short and wanted to see Jesus over the crowd.
2. He would repay four times as much.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 2, 3, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

Jesus, help us welcome your love and put our mistakes right with help. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Luke 19:1-10. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 42_Lk_19_05_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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