SUNDAY SCHOOL TO GO

ZACCHAEUS

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH, SIOUX FALLS
MAY 3, 2020
Zacchaeus was a tax collector who was not liked by anyone. His job was to collect taxes but Zacchaeus took more than what was owed in taxes and kept the rest for himself. He was getting rich by stealing from other people. People wouldn’t want to talk to him or spend time with him because he was not being nice at all. He also happened to be very short. Zacchaeus was lost in his sin and alone.

One day, Jesus was coming to Jericho and everyone wanted to see Him. People crowded the road, almost like a parade to catch a glimpse of the Lord. Zacchaeus was just too short. There was no way he’d see above the crowd and definitely no way they’d ever let him through to the front!

Zacchaeus may not have been a very nice guy but he did have a good idea! He saw a sycamore-fig tree and climbed right up! From way up there, Zacchaeus could look right down at the road to see what everyone was so excited about.

As Zacchaeus looked down, Jesus looked right up! A stunned Zacchaeus could hardly believe his ears when Jesus called him by name and said, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

Zacchaeus climbed out of the tree and was happy to have Jesus come to his home. No one else ever wanted to hang out with Zacchaeus so they certainly weren’t visiting his home! As Jesus walked to join Zacchaeus in his home, many other people grumbled and complained. They just couldn’t understand why Jesus would ever want to be seen with such a terrible sinner. Why would the Lord be interested in spending time with a person who is such a mess. Jesus is never afraid of spending time with sinners because He knows He has power over sin.

As Jesus and Zacchaeus spent time together, Zacchaeus told Jesus, “I’m going to give half of what I have to the poor. I’ll also give anyone I cheated, four times the amount that I took.” Jesus replied, “Today salvation has come to this house.” Then he said, “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” He called Zacchaeus one of God’s people!

Jesus was a friend to Zacchaeus, even when no one else wanted anything to do with him. Jesus never gives up on anyone and entered right into the life of a sinner to bring them life, hope and salvation.

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
PRAY!
Confess your sin to Jesus and thank Him for loving you so much! Tell Jesus about anyone that you are having trouble with and ask for help to love like Jesus. Listen and spend time with Jesus in your home.

TALK ABOUT IT

What does "the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" mean to you?

Would it surprise you if Jesus come to your home?

How would it feel to be Zacchaeus after Jesus told him he is saved?

Is there anything that any person can do to make Jesus want to avoid them?

What does unconditional love of Jesus mean to you?

Who do you know that is like a Zacchaeus? Is it a bully? Someone who does bad things? Someone who has hurt your feelings?

What does following the example of Jesus look like for you?

SNACK
EDIBLE TREES
Use grapes, lettuce, or broccoli to make leaves, pretzels or hot-dogs for the branches and trunk and a gummy bear or teddy graham for Zacchaeus. (You can substitute whatever you have at home for any of those!

GET CRAFTY
God knows your NAME! Use items you find outside or at home to spell your name on a piece of paper (or on the ground for a photograph!)

SCIENCE
Fill two jars with two different colors of water. Put a small strip of paper towel between the two jars and watch as water moves up and to the other jar, just like Jesus went to Zaccheaus' house! We can be with Jesus! Just for fun, try more jars and more colors.