

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level K • Unit 7 • Week 4

JESUS VISITS ZACCHAEUS

OBJECTIVE:

Use the story of Zacchaeus to teach that God is fair to everyone, and He will help anyone who wants to follow Him.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Have the class gather into a tight bunch with the you in the middle. Call those students who are taller first, and one that is shorter last, so that he or she is on the outside of the group.

Hold a small object in your hands.

Ask: [The child outside the bunch] Can you see what I have in my hand?

Do: Ask an assistant to get a stool or a chair and let the shortest child stand on the chair.

Ask: Can you see me better now?

Say: Sometimes it can be hard for short people. In a crowd it can be hard for them to see above the heads or shoulders of those in front. Sometimes it can even be unfair if the people in the front don't let shorter people see to the center of the action.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: In our story today, we will meet a short person who wants to see Jesus (Luke 19). His name is Zacchaeus. Let's say zak-KEE-us together. Zak-KEE-us. Say it one more time. This is a big name for a small man.

Today, many people are lining the streets of the city. What's going on? Someone important is coming to town. Zacchaeus doesn't want to miss seeing this important teacher. His name

was Jesus and He was quite a personality. People have been talking about Him all over town—in the butcher shop, in the barbershop and even at the tailor shop. Have you heard Jesus? He speaks with such power. He has even healed a blind man so he could see.

Zacchaeus wondered what this Jesus would look like. Was He tall? Or short like himself? Uh, oh. The crowd was beginning to push and bunch up so, he wasn't going to be able to see anything. Zacchaeus thought, "I've got to get where I can see Him."

Ask: Have you ever been at a parade where it was hard to see? Did your dad or someone tall lift you to his shoulders so you could see?

Well, Zacchaeus couldn't get up on someone's shoulders, but he could climb to a higher point. He remembered the tall sycamore tree down the street. He would run ahead and climb the tree. He ran fast and made it up into the tree just in time to see Jesus. Whew! That was close. Already Jesus was nearing the tree. In fact, now he was passing just underneath the tree branch he was on. Zacchaeus waited.

Suddenly, he heard his name being called. It was Jesus calling out to him. "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, because I want to visit your house today." Zacchaeus hardly believed his own ears. Jesus wanted to come to his house. Zacchaeus nearly jumped out of the tree. He hurried to meet Jesus. Zacchaeus smiled a broad smile and was quick to lead Jesus to his home. Jesus wanted to teach Zacchaeus about God's plan to save all people. Next week, we'll learn about God's plan and how His festivals teach us the plan.

The story of Zacchaeus teaches us that Jesus is fair. He doesn't care whether we are short or tall, or rich or poor. His message and love are for everyone.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Make a model of Zacchaeus in the tree.

Supplies: Paper plates
Green construction paper
Brown construction paper
Clothespins
Glue
Markers or crayons

Prepare: Cut out treetops from green construction paper. Cut out tree trunks from brown construction paper.

Do: Give a paper plate to each student. Have children paste the green treetop and the brown tree trunk to the paper plate. Draw a face on the clothespin for Zacchaeus. Clip clothespin to the paper plate in the green treetop.

Music:

Sing the following to the tune of "Thumbkin."

Words

Where is Martha? Where is Martha?
There she is. There she is.
She is busy listening. She is busy listening.
List'ning to Christ. List'ning to Christ.

Where is Peter? Where is Peter?
There he is. There he is.
He is busy walking. He is busy walking.
Walking to Christ. Walking to Christ.

Where is Dorcas? Where is Dorcas?
There she is. There she is.
She is busy sewing. She is busy sewing.
Sewing new clothes. Sewing new clothes.

Where is Zacchaeus? Where is Zacchaeus?
There he is. There he is.
He is busy looking. He is busy looking.
Looking for Christ. Looking for Christ.

Hand Motions

Cup hand to ear

Second and third fingers move on open palm

Use pretend needle and sew

Hand above eye like salute

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 2:11 "For there is no partiality with God."

Do: Explain that God is fair. He wants everyone to be in His family.

family activity

THE POINT:

Use the story of Zacchaeus to teach that God is fair to everyone, and He will help anyone who wants to follow Him.

ASK ME...

- Who was Zacchaeus?
- What did he do to see Jesus?
- Why did Jesus want to visit Zacchaeus?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a family discussion of fairness and unfairness. Talk about the poor, the old, the disabled, etc. Stress God's fairness. He wants all people to be in His family.

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 2:11 "For there is no partiality with God."