

ZACCHAEUS RECEIVES SALVATION

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Materials Needed:

Visual cards or stick figures
“Before and After” pictures

Key Verse: *John 1:12 As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even those who believe in His name.*

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know— When Zacchaeus was trying to see Jesus, he accepted Jesus’ invitation, causing the crowd to grumble, but Zacchaeus responded by making restitution.

To Realize— When a person seeking Jesus genuinely receives Him, it will result in a changed life.

To Respond by— by receiving Jesus.

Setting up the Story:

How many of you have seen “Before and After” pictures? Maybe what an old house looked like BEFORE it was fixed, and then a picture of what it looked like AFTER it was fixed. I have some Before and After pictures of people (show pictures from weight loss programs or make up ads). Do you know why people take these before and after pictures? To show someone what a DIFFERENCE their program or their make-up product is going to make! In today’s Bible story, we are going to look at two people—and what they were like BEFORE and AFTER they met Jesus. The first one is a man named Zacchaeus.

Scripture **Telling the story:**

- I. Zacchaeus Tries to See Jesus
 - A. Jesus enters Jericho
 - B. Zacchaeus
 1. short
 2. tax collector= rich cheater, selfish
 - C. Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus; climbs a tree

As you tell the story:

Draw stick figures on a board, or use visuals to show the Before picture. **Write the words** underneath the Zacchaeus stick figure: “Bad. Cheater. Selfish.” It doesn’t seem like someone who is BAD would want to see Jesus, does it? But Zacchaeus REALLY wanted to see Him! Do you know how we know? He climbed a tree and grown up men usually did not climb trees in front of everyone! He looked a little bit silly! Why do you think it was so important to him? He had heard about Jesus and wanted to meet Him. There He was! Zacchaeus could see him coming with the large crowd surrounding him! People

- II. Zacchaeus Accepts Jesus' Invitation and Crowds Grumble
 - A. Jesus stops: "Coming to house."
 - B. Zacchaeus receives him gladly
 - C. Crowds Grumble

- III. Zacchaeus Makes Restitution
 - A. Repays those he's cheated 4x back!
 - B. Give ½ possessions to the poor.
 - C. Jesus says Salvation has come to Zacchaeus!

were everywhere, crowding around Jesus. But then something happened that probably not even Zacchaeus was expecting and definitely the crowd wasn't expecting! Jesus STOPPED right at that tree where Zacchaeus was! **(draw stick figure of Z. in a tree with Jesus on the ground or use visual. Write the word "Jesus.")**

If you had been Zacchaeus, how would you feel right then?! Zacchaeus had been seeking Jesus, but Jesus stopped and was looking for Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus knew that his life would never be the same!

And then he heard it...the comments from the crowds. No one wanted Jesus to go to HIS house. Do you know why? What kind of person was Zacchaeus? (point to words under first picture) Just then, Zacchaeus said the most amazing thing anyone had ever heard! (storytell details)

Draw the same stick figure of Zacchaeus as in the first picture only underneath write the words: Good. Honest. Generous.

What had changed?! What made Zacchaeus THIS way (point to first words) BEFORE, and THIS way (point to last words) AFTER? Zacchaeus had met—JESUS! And Jesus said that Zacchaeus had salvation because Zacchaeus had Him! Nothing else mattered to Zacchaeus!

Concluding the Story:

I told you at the beginning that we had TWO people in today's lesson that we were going to look at their before and after pictures and when they met Jesus. The first person is Zacchaeus, but the second person is ME! (share testimony of what difference Jesus made before and after—draw stick figure and write key words before and after).

If you have any of these BEFORE words that are true of you, I have very good news for you! When you give your life to Jesus, He will change you so that you will be different AFTER you receive Him.

Let's pray.