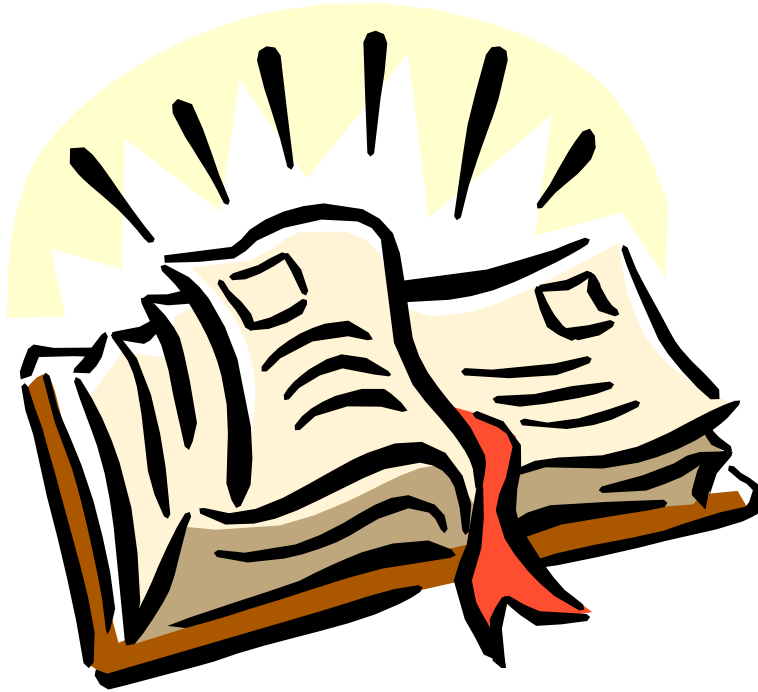


Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:



LESSON TITLE: Zacchaeus

THEME: Jesus changes lives.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 19:1-10

Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study *God's Word* together.

This week we learned about **Zacchaeus**. The theme was "**Jesus Changes Lives**." Zacchaeus is a wonderful story about a man who was living very well according to man's standards. After Zacchaeus heard about Jesus Christ his curiosity got the best of him. He traveled down the street and climbed in a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus. He wanted to see what Jesus was all about and if He had anything to offer.

Zacchaeus found out that he was truly lost. And the status he held was insignificant. He found out that Jesus only could truly change a life. What a great story to reflect on this week. Pray and ask the Lord that others will see how your life has changed. Curiosity will surely stir up in others who have not seen or heard of Jesus a desire to find out more.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Luke 19:1-10**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of *God's Word* in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Not Living Up To His Name

Text: Luke 19:2 - "Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich."

Also read Luke 19:1-10

Most of you know the song, "Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he". Well, this week in our devotions we will learn about this man named Zacchaeus and what he was like. We will also see if we are like him in any way. The name *Zacchaeus* means "righteous one", but as we will see after reading Luke 19:1-10, Zacchaeus is not living up to his name. Zacchaeus' job was that of a chief tax collector. He collected taxes not only from his own people, who were the Jews, but he worked for the Gentiles also! The Jews considered the Gentiles to be unclean. Chief tax collectors were known to collect more taxes than required; the more money they collected the more money they could keep for themselves. Do you think the people of Zacchaeus' time respected and trusted him?

Let's pretend you live in Jericho. You are outside with your father building a table, when you notice the chief tax collector of the city coming down the road. Your father mumbles something about having to dig deep into his pocket to pay 50 cents for taxes. The chief tax collector, also known as a publican, tells your father he needs to pay 1 dollar today. Your father is upset because he knows this publican is collecting more money than required, but he can do nothing about it because he might be thrown in jail if he doesn't pay. The tax collector had a lot of money. He lived in a nice big house, drove a classy chariot, and wore fancy clothes. This tax collector was a traitor in the eyes of the Jews.

Down the road you notice a crowd gathering. Everyone was running to the street where a man was walking. "Could this be the man called Jesus Christ you've heard so much about?" you think. Zacchaeus asks you, "Why is everyone in such a hurry to go down the street, what's going on?" You tell him about the man called Jesus. Zacchaeus remembers hearing about Jesus who has the power to change people's lives. His curiosity started to stir in his mind. **(Continued on Day Two)**

- Do you think Zacchaeus was living up to the meaning of his name ("righteous one")?
- Do you know the true meaning of your name? Are you living up to that name?
- Are you living up to the name of Christian?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Righteous: Doing or being what is right.

Day Two

Motivated By Curiosity

Text: Luke 18:17 - "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Also read Luke 19:3-4

(Continued from Day One) Zacchaeus may have been thinking to himself, "Does this man Jesus have anything to do with my life? Does He really change people? He must be different than any ordinary man because so many people are running to see Him. I wonder if I could get near to take a look." Zacchaeus was an important man and in the land he lived in, it was very unusual for a man to run (especially a wealthy government official like Zacchaeus!) But, Zacchaeus was curious. He did not want to miss what was happening. Zacchaeus had a desire to go and see what all the commotion was about.

Curiosity is something that a lot of children have. There are probably a lot of things that you are very curious about. Jesus wants us to be curious about Him and then come to find out more. Despite being a wealthy and important man, Zacchaeus ran down the street with the other people to try to get a glance at Jesus Christ. Imagine arriving late at a parade and hearing that the most important part of the parade had already passed by. Would you be curious to know what that part of the parade was? Wouldn't you want to run to the front to take a look at what it was what you missed? Well, Zacchaeus was very curious and he didn't want to miss seeing Jesus.

Just think of all the people who are curious about Jesus and who are not running to see him? What is going to happen to them? I hope no one misses out on meeting Jesus.

For a moment, Zacchaeus was like a child that day. He had curiosity to see what and who Jesus was. By having this curiosity Zacchaeus was about to have his life changed. As we continue to read tomorrow, we will see how Zacchaeus' life changed. **(Continued on Day Three)**

- Did your life change because you were curious about Jesus?
- Are you curious about Jesus' life and what he can do for you?
- Are others curious about your life because you show Jesus' love?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Curiosity: An eager desire to learn and to find out more about something.
Zacchaeus was curious about Jesus.

Day Three

Seeking and Was Found!

Text: Romans 3:11 - "There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God."

Also read Genesis 3:1-10

(Continued from Day Two) As Zacchaeus was running towards Jesus, he might have been thinking to himself, "I am seeking this man called Jesus...I want to find out what He has to offer!" Little did Zacchaeus know that he was not seeking Jesus, but Jesus was seeking him (Luke 19:10)! Before we come to Jesus we may be curious about Him, but when we do come to Him we find out that He was searching for us all of the time (Romans 3:11).

Have you ever been lost in a large area, with a lot of people around and you couldn't find your parents? When you found them, did you know that they also were seeking after you the entire time? It is really scary to be lost like that; but it is very comforting to know that your parents, who are full of wisdom, were seeking after you. When you are found and reunited with your parents you feel secure and peaceful. Zacchaeus was lost. He was a sinner, like you and me. He thought he was seeking for the one who could offer him something. He probably didn't know what. But it had to be better than a life of cheating people out of money and living for the emptiness of riches. What a surprise it must have been for him to find out that Jesus was looking for him the whole time. For us, we can rejoice that a seeking Savior will always find a sinner who is looking for a new beginning.

Zacchaeus' curiosity and willingness to come to Jesus changed his life forever. Jesus knew what was happening in Zacchaeus' life just like He knows everything about our lives. Zacchaeus couldn't hide anything from God. Remember when Adam and Eve tried to hide from God but God came and sought them out (Genesis 3:1-10). When Jesus was ministering on earth, He sought out the lost; and today the Holy Spirit, through God's people, is searching for lost sinners. **(Continued on Day Four)**

- Has Jesus found you? Have you accepted Christ as your Savior?
- Share about the time that you came to Jesus. How did He seek you out?
- If you know someone who doesn't know Jesus, pray and ask the Lord to help them to understand more about Him (John 3:16).

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Seek: To try to find someone or something.

Too Short to Measure Up

Text: Romans 3:23 – "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Also read Luke 16:15 and Revelation 3:17

(Continued from Day Three) How does someone "measure up"? Have you ever heard this question asked before? Many people think that they are "BIG" people in this world. They may think this because they are rich or popular, or they have power over others. The problem is that they are measuring themselves (or comparing themselves) against man's standard and not God's. When we do that it is not right in the sight of God (Luke 16:15). Those who compare themselves with others may think that they have everything when in fact they have nothing (Revelation 3:17). Zacchaeus was a man who believed he had authority over people, he was popular with his friends (not the regular people) and he was very rich. But even though he had these things, Zacchaeus did not measure up to God's standard.

Zacchaeus ran to the street where Jesus was passing by. Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd so he decided to climb up in a tree so he could see over the crowd. Zacchaeus put aside his pride to climb the tree so he could just get a glimpse of Jesus. In a spiritual sense, all of us are of "little stature" (See Romans 3:23). We do not measure up to God's standard therefore we are "too little" to enter into heaven. No matter how hard we try, we still sin. We can't do enough good things to get us into heaven. What happened to Zacchaeus next was incredible. Zacchaeus met Jesus and trusted and obeyed Him. He became a "true son of Abraham," because he became a believer in Jesus.

This was as big as Zacchaeus could get! It is also the "biggest" thing we can do - trust in Jesus to be saved! No matter how tall or how short we are, we don't measure up to God's standard. We need to have a childlike faith, just like Zacchaeus did, by trusting and obeying Jesus. We can accept Jesus as God's loving Son. Jesus took all of our sins upon Himself on the cross. So when God looks at our heart He sees Jesus. Jesus allows us to be big enough to enter into heaven forever! We measure up to God's standard through Jesus. He is all we need! Nothing else! **(Continued on Day Five)**

- Do you measure up to God's standard? How do we measure up?
- What are some ways you express your faith in God?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Standard: A model or pattern to show what is expected. God's standard is perfection and we meet His standard by believing in Jesus.

Day Five

Responding By Faith

Text: Rev. 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Also read Luke 19:9-10

(Continued from Day Four) Zacchaeus was up in the tree looking for Jesus. Jesus stopped at the tree and told Zacchaeus to come down from the tree. Jesus then invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus was standing at the door of Zacchaeus' house knocking. Zacchaeus could have made excuses about why he couldn't have Jesus come over, or say maybe later. But he would completely miss out on what Jesus wanted to do in his life. Zacchaeus responded by opening the door to his house and letting Jesus come in (Revelation 3:20). Zacchaeus responded by faith to Jesus' gracious words to him and this resulted in a changed life for Zacchaeus.

How do we know Zacchaeus' life was changed? As we have read in Luke 19:8, Zacchaeus showed his faith in Jesus by restoring all the goods and money he had taken from others. Restoring someone's goods means to pay back what you have either stolen or wronged someone out of. Do you remember back to Day One of our devotions when we were pretending to be outside, building a table with our father and Zacchaeus approached us and took more money than he should have? Well, Zacchaeus promised Jesus he would repay all those people he did wrong to. Not only was he going to repay the people that he had stolen from, but also he was going to obey God's word and give them more. Zacchaeus did not argue with the terms of the Law; he offered to pay the highest price because his heart had truly been changed.

What about our lives? Do others see a change in our life? We can also respond by faith to Jesus. He is the answer to our need for salvation. If your life has been changed, how can you help others come to know Jesus? Do you think those who saw Zacchaeus' new life were curious about what changed him? We need to remember that we are a living example of a saving faith.

Kid's Prayer Time



This week as you pray, remember to pray for others who may not know Jesus. Ask the Lord to help your life to be the kind of life that would makes others want to find out more about Jesus. If you have never asked Jesus to come into your life, you can do it today!

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"Jesus came to seek
and save the lost."**

Third Grade and Above

**"...for the Son of
Man has come to
seek and to save
that which was lost."**

Luke 19:10