

To Do At Home:

Episode 32



Sometimes it's hard for us to imagine that our children can have a relationship with Jesus - but they can! They are able to grasp this concept and we can encourage them to consider Jesus as their friend. He rescued them and wants to have a relationship with them. This episode's Bible story is from Luke 19:1-10. The Big Idea is: **Jesus wants a relationship with us.** Talk about what it means to have a good relationship with others and with Jesus.

Activity 1: Someone's Hiding

Supplies: Tree pictures, Zaccheus picture (supplied)

- Explain that you hid a picture of a man under one of the trees.
- Encourage your child to look under the trees. When they find the hidden picture, hold it up and tell them that the man is named Zacchaeus.
- Direct your child to turn around and close their eyes while you hide the picture of Zacchaeus under a different tree.
- Keep playing as long as your child is engaged.
- To wrap up, let your child know that in today's story from the Bible, Zacchaeus climbs a tree so he can see Jesus. Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus. Jesus loves us and wants to spend time with us too!
- Say the Big Idea together: **Jesus wants a relationship with us!**

Activity 2: Read the story

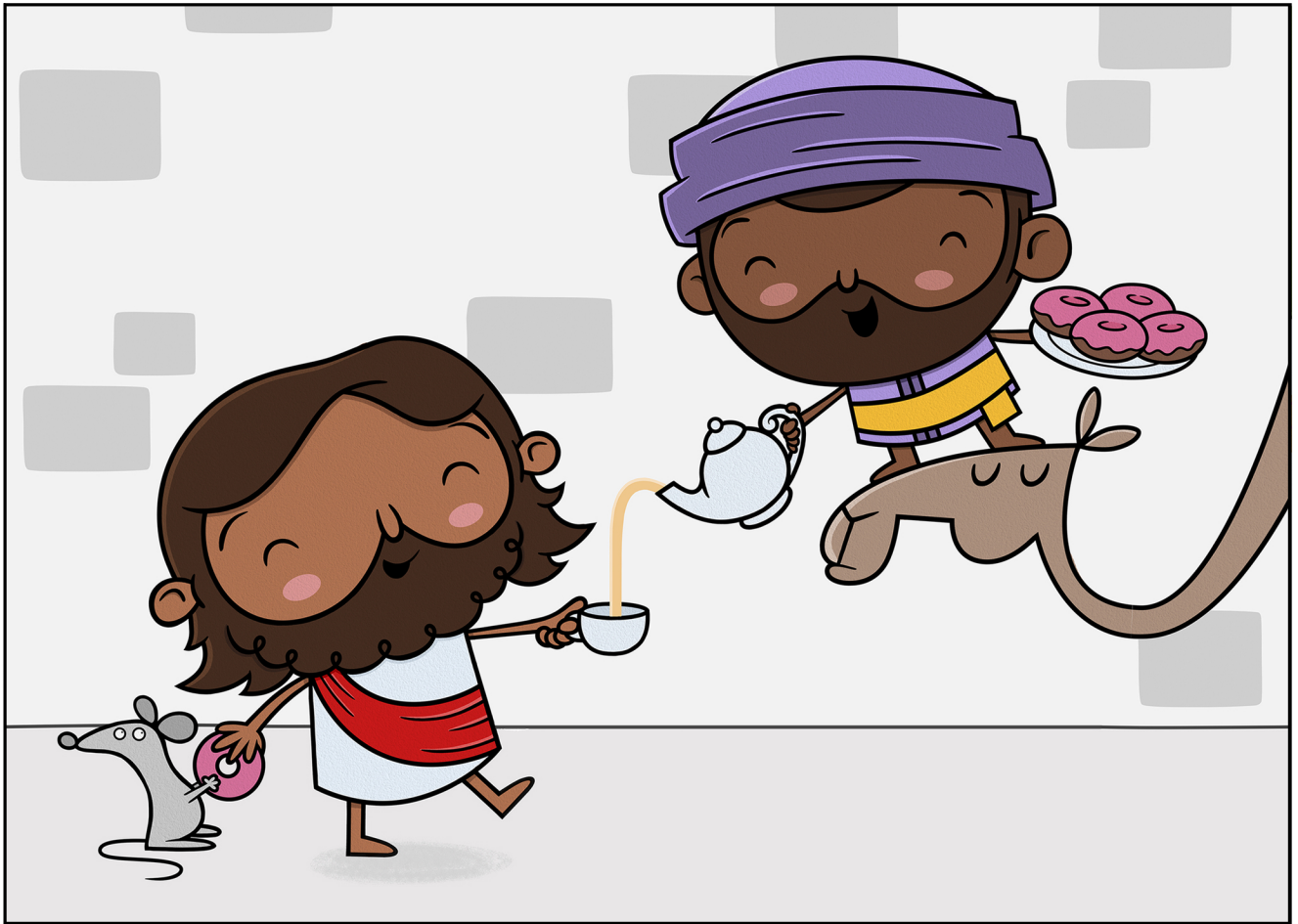
Supplies: (provided) Zaccheus story book and colouring page

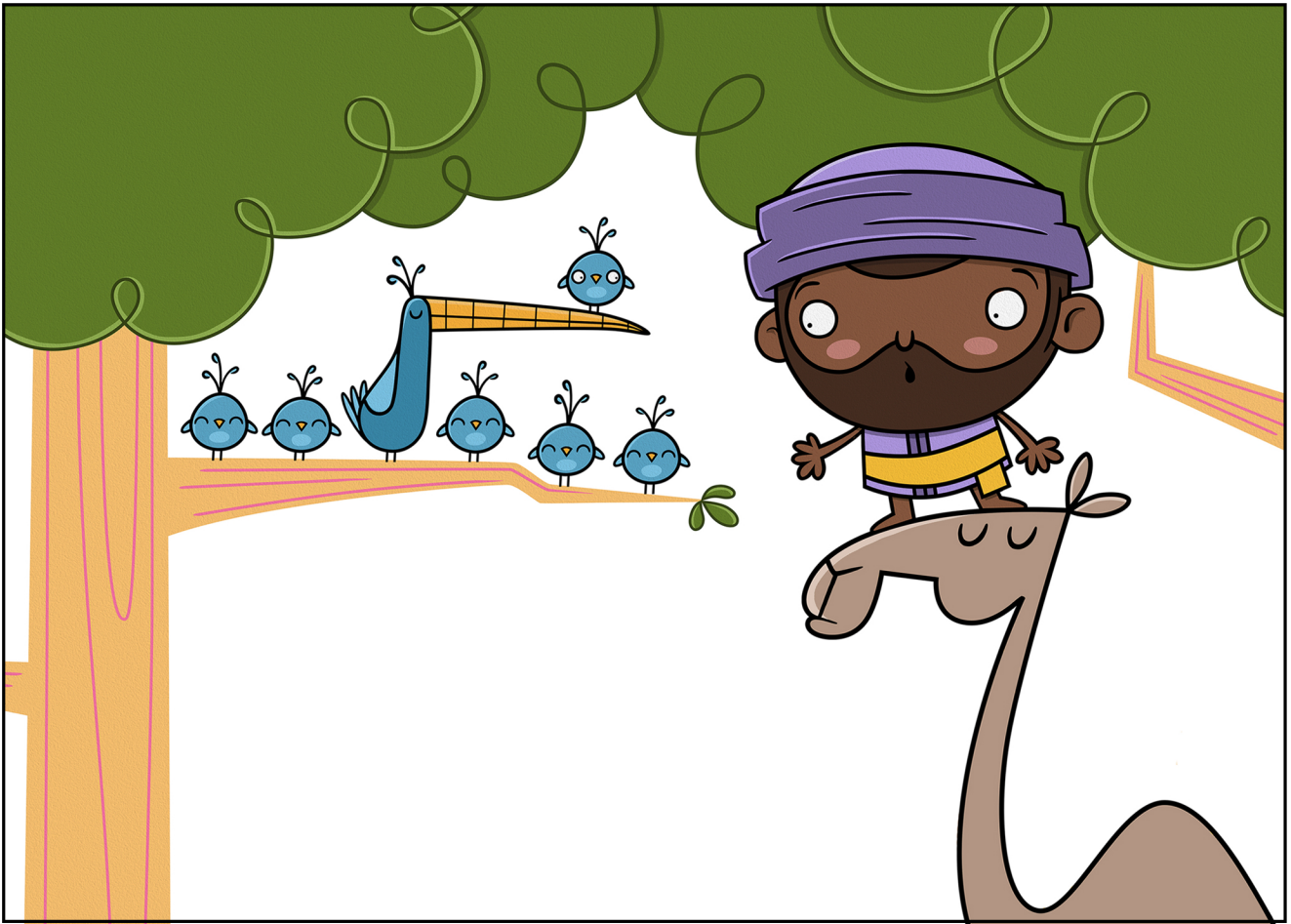
Parent Tip: The words are on one side of the page so you can read and show your child the picture

- Explain that today's story is from the Bible.
- Have your child and their dolls/stuffies sit to listen to you read the story as you show them the pictures.
- Pray, "Dear Jesus, we're having so much fun learning about Zacchaeus today! Thank you for loving us just as you loved him. Thank you for wanting to spend time with us. We love you. Amen."
- Give your child the colouring sheet and markers/crayons to colour with.
- As they colour, talk about the story and see if they can tell you the story.

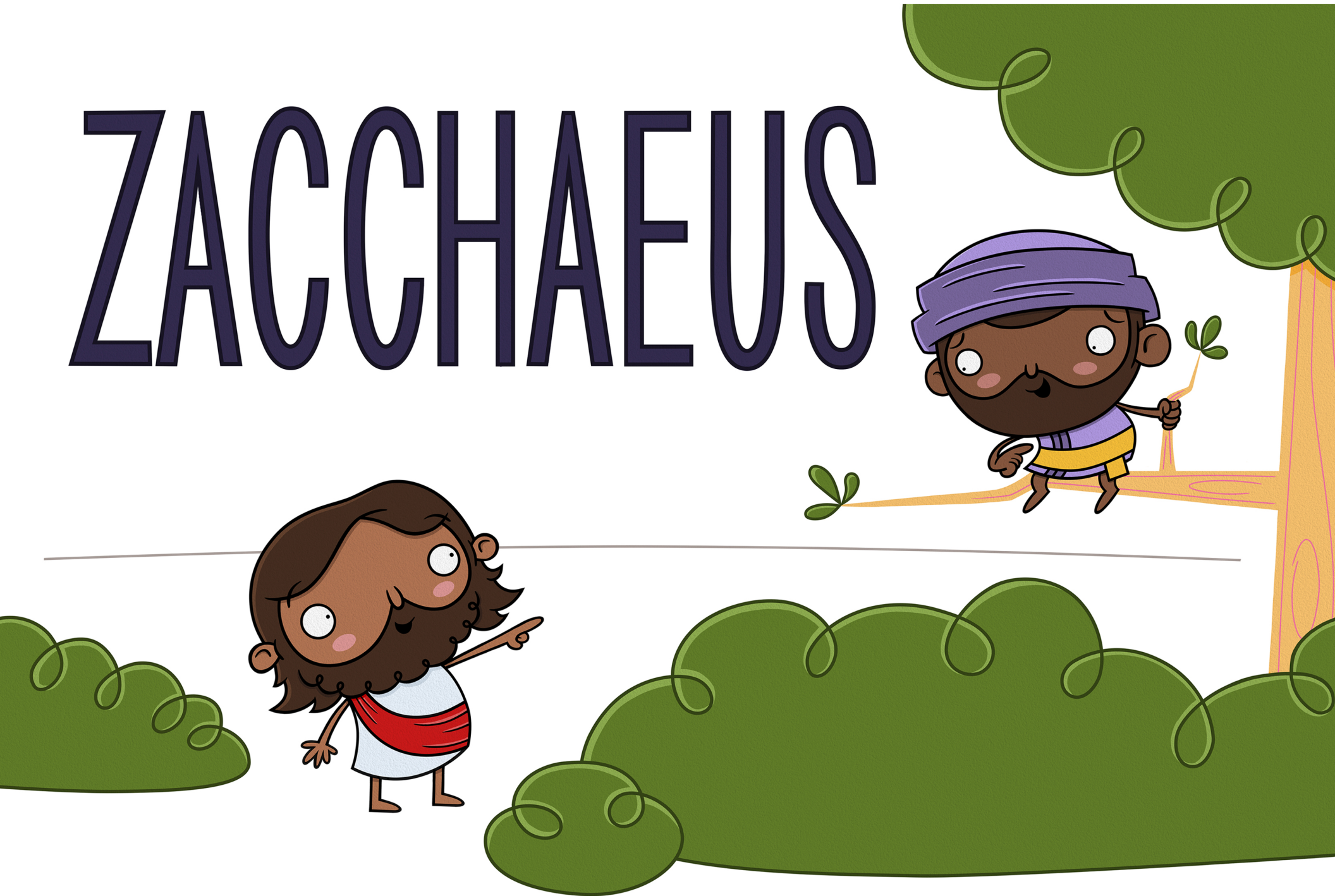
Activity 3: Memory Verse: "Jesus Christ has rescued us." Galatians 3:13

- This is a shorter memory verse for the preschoolers to learn. Have your child say it after you while they pretend to be very small and can't see in a crowd. Have your child say it to you while they pretend to be up in a tree.
- Repeat as they are engaged with the activity.
- If your child memorizes it, record them saying it and send it in to Sarah to have your name put in a draw for a monthly prize! (They can be sent by email to sarah@onthejourney.ca or through FaceBook Messenger.)





ZACCHAEUS

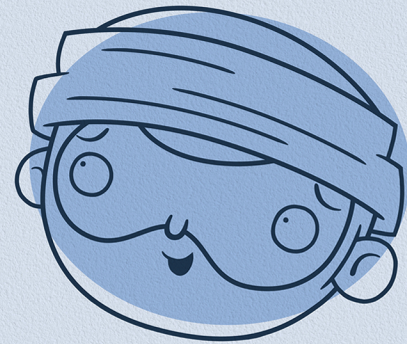


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illustrated by
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Jesus was someone who travelled around,
Helping all kinds of people in all kinds of towns.
Because he was caring and always so kind,
Large crowds would follow him; he didn't mind.




Now here's where we introduce someone called Zach:
He took money from others but never gave back.
His job – it is true – was to take people's cash,
But he always took too much, and off he would dash.
He cheated his friends and we know that's not fair,
He was greedy and mean and he just didn't care.



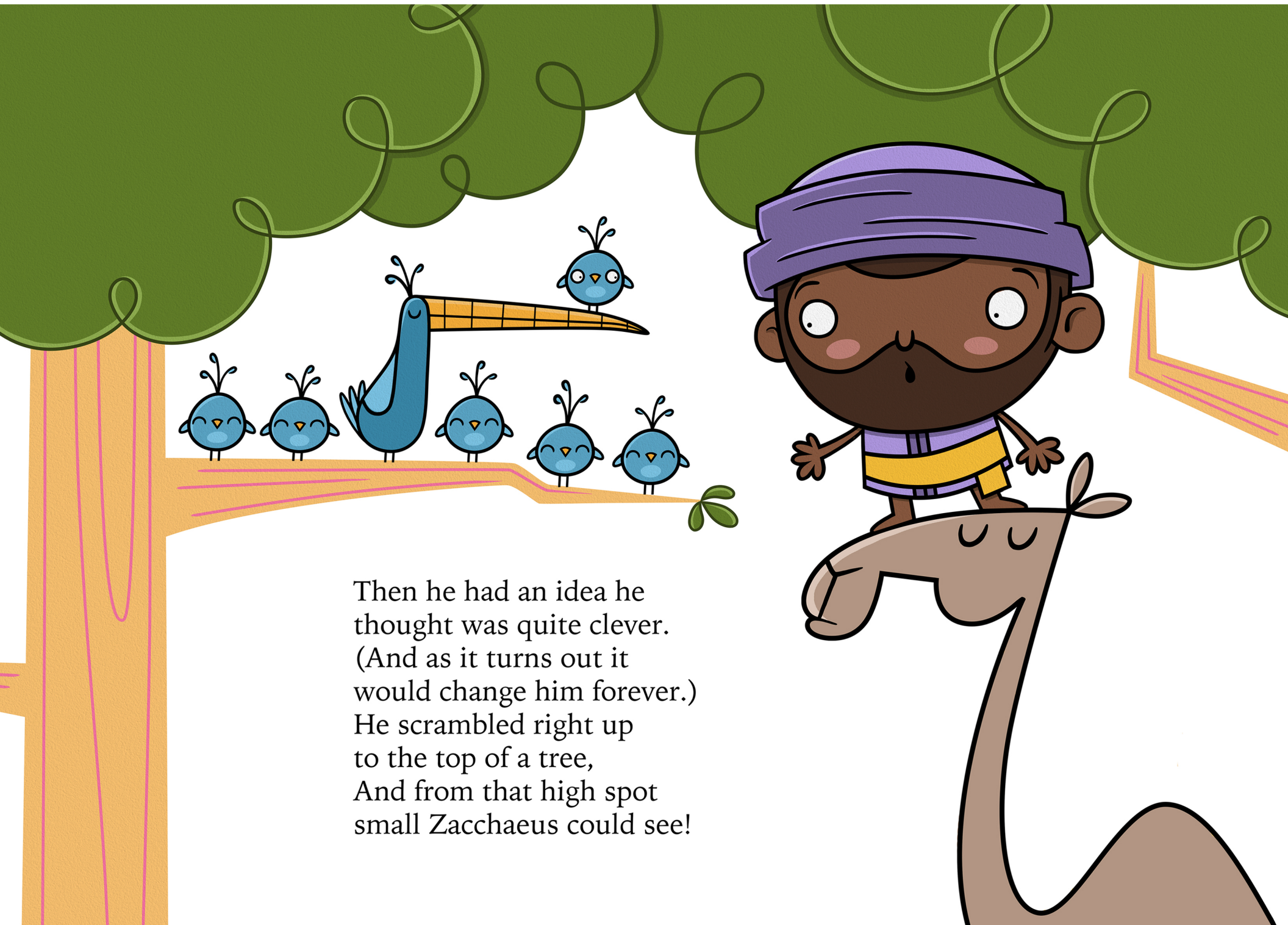
Do you think people liked him? Oh no, they were mad!
So although he was rich that was all that he had.
That isn't what life is about, after all.
Oh, and just one more thing – he was not very tall.



One day Zach heard Jesus
had come to his town.
The crowds were arriving
from miles around.
“This Jesus is somebody
I want to meet,”
Thought Zach to himself
as he raced down the street.



But quite a few other
folk had that idea
And the crowds were so big
poor Zach couldn't get near.
Because he was small
he saw nothing at all,
He couldn't see Jesus
and wished he were tall.



Then he had an idea he
thought was quite clever.
(And as it turns out it
would change him forever.)
He scrambled right up
to the top of a tree,
And from that high spot
small Zacchaeus could see!

Do you know what he saw?
(It was something surprising.)
Jesus was walking
towards him and smiling!
“Hello my friend!”
He called up from the ground.
“We’re going to your house
for tea; come on down!”



I know who you are
and the things that you do,
But Zacchaeus I have
something better for you!”

Well, Zach leapt right down
from high up in his tree
And proudly took Jesus
straight home for some tea.



Even though he'd done things
that were greedy and bad,
Jesus loved him, forgave him,
and that made him glad.



Lots of folk wondered why Jesus was keen
To be friends with a man the whole town knew was mean.
But that's just the kind of thing Jesus would do;
He loved Zach though he wasn't perfect, it's true.



Now that isn't really how this story ends,
Because Zach was so pleased Jesus said they were friends,
He promised he wouldn't be mean any more
And gave half of his money away to the poor.
His life changed that day; he was never the same,
All because Jesus loved him and knew him by name.



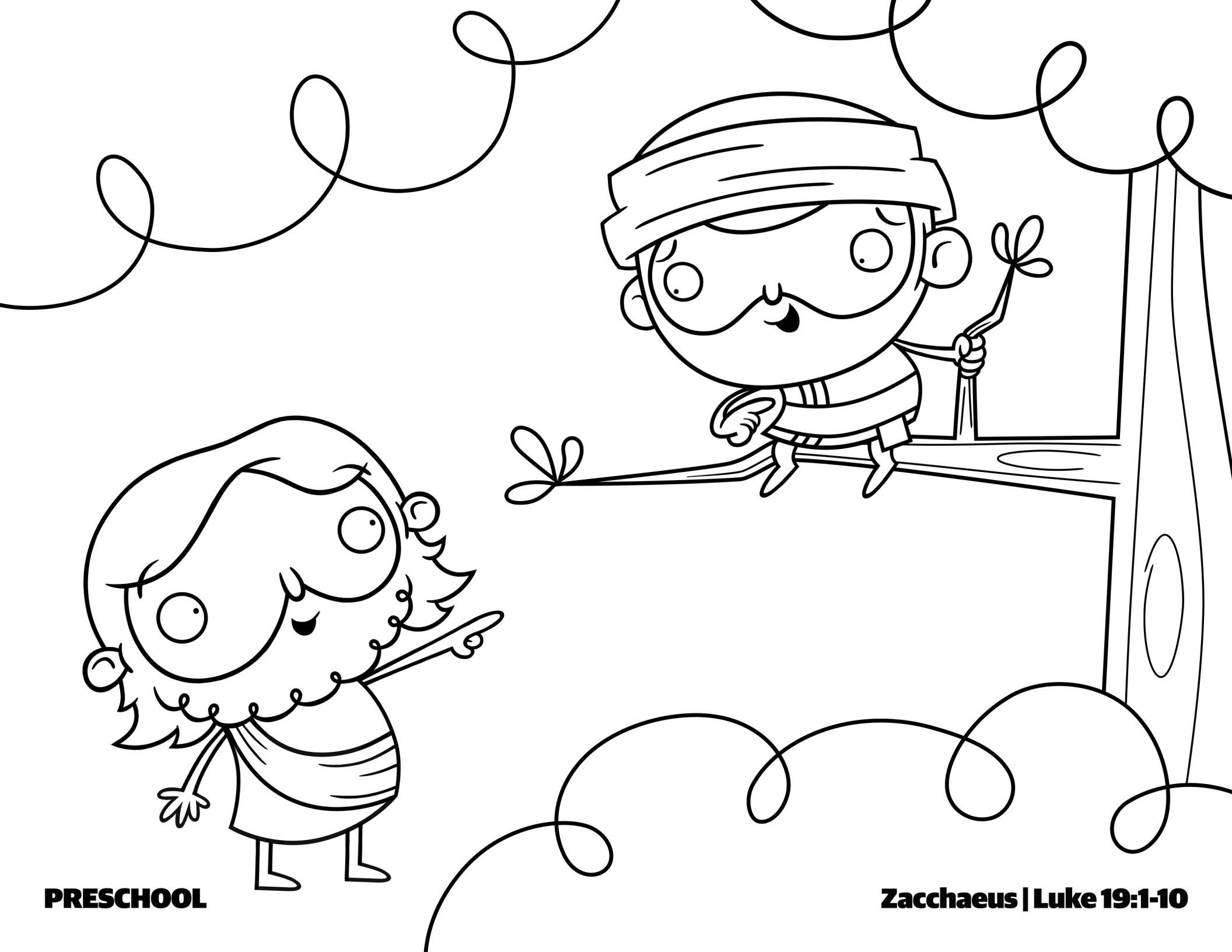




PRESCHOOL



Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10



PRESCHOOL

Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10



Activity 4:

Supplies: Zaccheus story pictures (provided), blocks or building bricks (from home)

- Place the pictures in a row on the floor and place some blocks about five feet away on the floor. Have your child stand next to the blocks.
- Explain that you will give them clues about a scene from today's Bible story (e.g., Zacchaeus is having a hard time seeing through the crowd). They will race to identify the matching picture and place a block on it.
 - Ask how Zaccheus might feel in that picture
 - Ask how Jesus might feel
- Repeat until you've gone through the whole story.
- Say the Big Idea together: **Jesus wants a relationship with us!**