

## Week 5 All Age Luke in Lent material : Luke 19.1-10

James 4:8a "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

### Equipment:

Pens/pencils  
Colouring sheets  
Happy/sad faces including one large God is Here  
Relay pics  
Coins  
refreshments

4.25 – 4.35

10 mins

**Gathering activity** (refreshments could be served while you do this. A CD could be played quietly in the background.)

Give everyone a smiley and a sad face to colour or draw on

Discussion question:

What are the things that have been good or made us happy today? What are the things we haven't liked as much or that have been bad? (people don't have to tell out loud if they don't want to.)

### Gathering prayer

Are there any things we have done today that might have made God happy or that God would enjoy? Are there any things we've done today that might make God sad?

Pause to think.

Place our happy/sad faces on the "God is here" sign.

You could use this prayer:

Lord God, you know what sort of day we have had so far. You have been with us, even when we haven't noticed you. Thank you.

Lord you know the good things we have done and the bad things too. Please forgive us for the things we shouldn't have done today. Thank you that you still love us and welcome us. Amen.

You could all use the words: "Jesus, I am here. Thank you for welcoming me."

4.35 – 4.50

15 min

**Group discussion & reading.** (Refreshments if not done already)

Discussion question: Is there anyone you would really like to meet? What would you do to get to meet that person?

Before the Bible reading, ask everyone to think about what people are mentioned in this story. What were their feelings? Does anything in the story surprise you?

Read Luke 19.1-10 together. As you read, put in an explanation of the words tax collector, sinner, salvation, Abraham's family, Son of man.

Those who like to colour as they talk could colour in one of the tree pictures.

Some questions to think about together:

Taxation explained.... As a little activity, you could give everyone between 3 and 6 copper coins. Zacchaeus was a tax collector for the Romans. He was supposed to take some money from everyone to give to the Romans who were in charge of the country. Maybe he was supposed to take 1 coin to give to the Romans (take one coin off each person and put them in a pile. The Romans let the tax collectors have some of the money for themselves as pay for their work. (give one coin into a pile for Zacchaeus, which should already have money in it – he was a rich man) Maybe sometimes the tax collectors took more coins than they were supposed to and kept the rest for themselves (take another coin off everyone & put it in the Zacchaeus pile.) How do you think people felt about that?

- Who did Zacchaeus want to see? What did he do to make sure he saw him? Why do you think he wanted to see him? Would you have done that to see Jesus?
- What did Jesus do when he saw Zacchaeus?
- How do you think Zacchaeus felt to have Jesus coming to his house?
- How would you have felt if Jesus invited himself to your house?
- Who would you like to come and visit your house? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus?
- What did the crowd think of Jesus going to see Zacchaeus? Why were they cross with Jesus? How would you feel if Jesus was being nice to someone you didn't like much, who you thought was a bad person?
- Zacchaeus changed after he met Jesus. What did he do to show he had changed? (If you did the coin thing earlier, you could split half of the Zacchaeus pile and give it to those who only have one coin now. Then give back 4 times what was stolen from each person)
- Do you think that made people feel better about Jesus and Zacchaeus?
- Was it more important that Zacchaeus changed on the inside or that he gave the money back?
- If we are nasty to people sometimes, is there anything we can do to help show we are sorry?

Thought: Jesus is ready to welcome all of us whatever we're like. He wants us to do the right thing, so if we can make up for things we have done wrong, that is good.

4.50-5p.m.

10 mins

### **Game, Response and prayer**

A simple relay getting all the bits of the story – tree picture, Zacchaeus, crowd, Jesus, house, money. (pics below)

Think about how Jesus loves each one of us. Think about how Zacchaeus made a real effort to get closer to Jesus. Do we take the time to get close to Jesus, to read stories about him? To talk to Him in prayer?

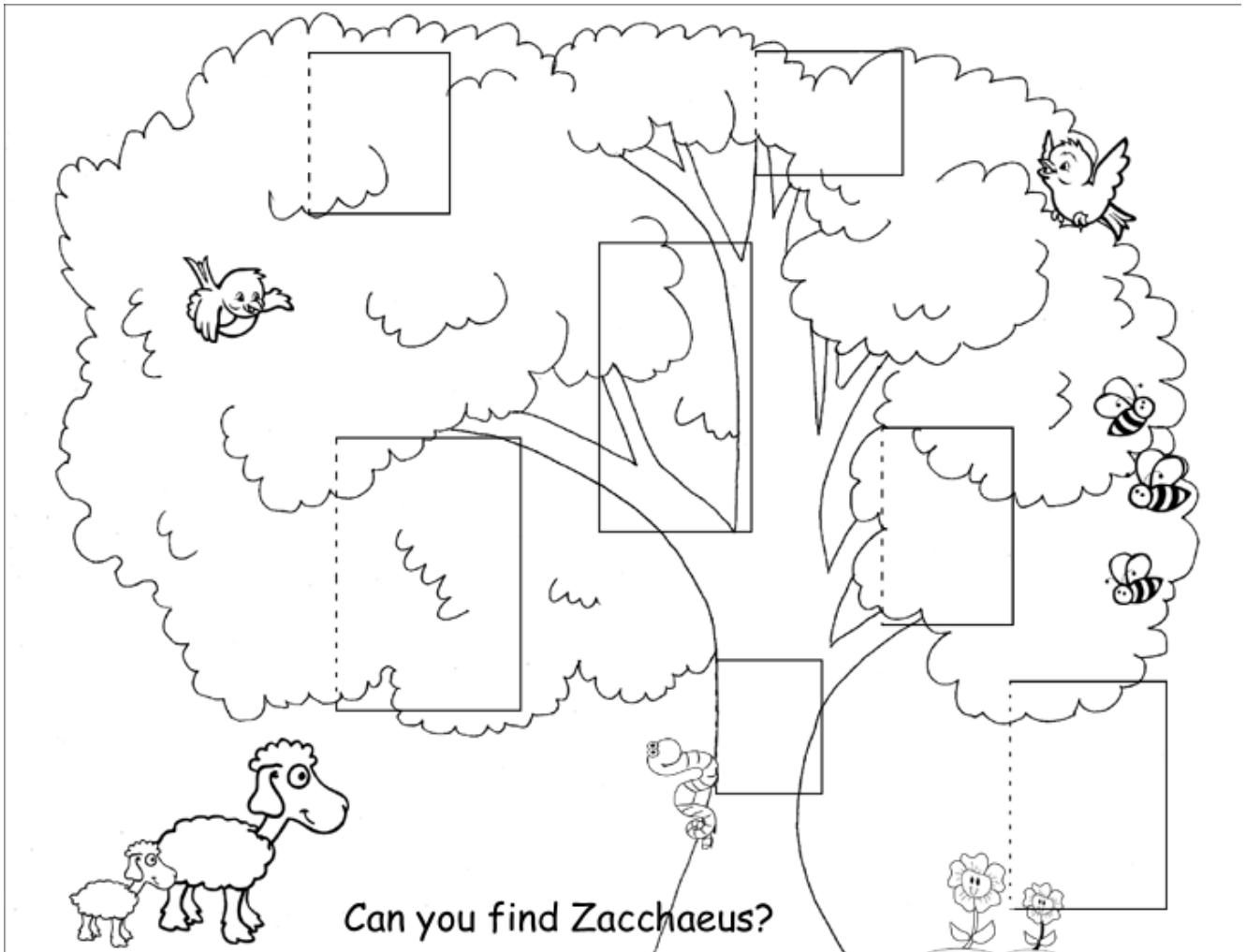
You could use this prayer: Thank you Jesus that you love us and you want us to get to know you better. Please help us to be your friend. Help us when we get things wrong to say sorry and to try to change for the better like Zacchaeus.

You could use these words together: Jesus, we are here. Thank you for welcoming us.

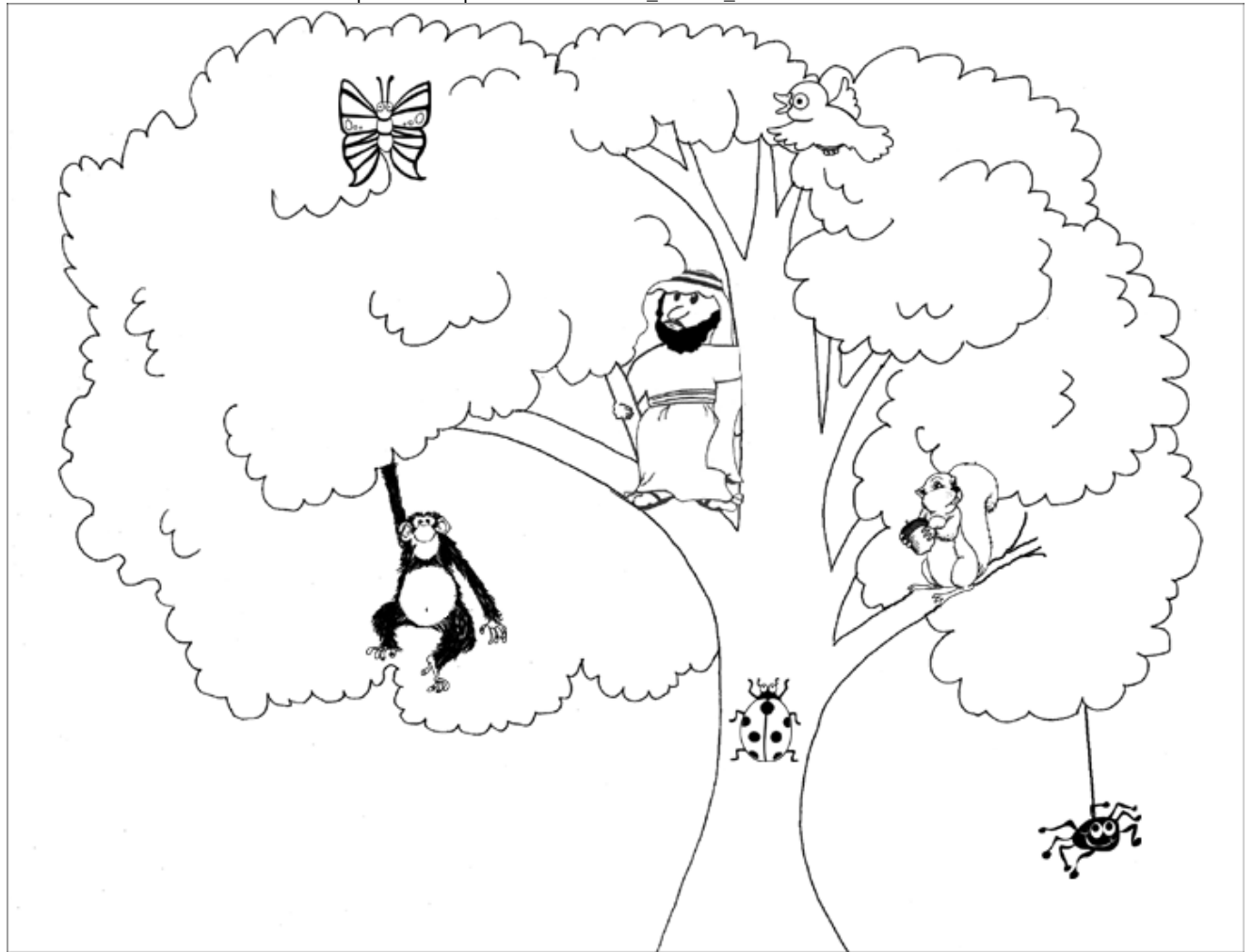


Jesus, I am here.  
Thank you for welcoming  
me.

Jesus, we are here.  
Thank you for welcoming  
us.



[http://daniellesplace.com/html/bible\\_themes\\_w-z.html#zaccheaus](http://daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_w-z.html#zaccheaus)



**God is here!**



## Luke 19

### Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich.

<sup>3</sup> Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore?fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. <sup>10</sup> The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them."



