

## **Jesus and Zacchaeus Family Activity**

### **Zacchaeus**

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

**Parent Note:** The story of Zacchaeus takes place after Jesus has decided his destiny will be fulfilled in Jerusalem. Therefore, he is on the way to the city of the temple when he passes through Jericho. The crowds gather around after Jesus and line the streets to see him. Zacchaeus was a tax collector who was a Jew who was working for the Roman government. He was not respected by many and probably had a hard time finding a place at the front. One point of interest is that Jesus did not ask for Zacchaeus to change his lifestyle. Was Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus enough that he found the Messiah? Zacchaeus had a change of heart, repentance. Zacchaeus volunteered to give up all that he had and pay back four times that which he had cheated people out of. The Jews who had saw Jesus with Zacchaeus wondered why the Rabbi was eating with sinners and tax collectors? Jesus reminded them that the entire world is made up of the people of God.

(Adapted by The Good Shepherd, P.O. Box 1754 Manchester, MO)

### **Review Wondering questions:**

I wonder who told the people that Jesus was coming?

I wonder if Zacchaeus felt bad when no one would let him in line to see?

I wonder if it was hard to climb the tree?

I wonder what Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about?

I wonder where you are in this story?

### **Activities to Explore:**

Sing Jesus Loves the Little Children. A reminder that Jesus loves everyone even little children.

Go to a park and climb something. What do you see?

Discuss around the table: Zacchaeus was hated because he became very wealthy by taking unfair amounts of money from other people. How do we feel about wealthy people who may have cheated to get money today? Have you heard of these people?