

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 19

S is for Salvation

S is for Salvation

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective Use the story of Zacchaeus to show the children that salvation is available to all who ask.

Key Verses

Luke 19:1-10—Main Teaching Passage

Isaiah 1:18

2 Corinthians 5:17

Memory Verse Psalm 33:4 (May Memory Verse)

"For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth."

Hook

Ask the students if any of them have a favorite toy or teddy bear. Tell them to imagine that the object they named accidentally fell into the trash can. Just when the trash is about to get thrown into the garbage truck and be gone forever, the students see their favorite toy. Ask them, "What do you do? Do you let your favorite toy be thrown away forever, or do you go and get the toy, no matter how dirty, and bring it back into the house?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Luke 19:1-10, we are introduced, to the character of Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, who we are told is very rich. Tax collectors were hated in Israel, not only because they cheated the common people to line their own pockets, but also because they helped the Romans, who were the enemies of Israel.

The focus of this passage is Zacchaeus' heart, not his short stature. Despite all of his moral failings, he was still desperate to see the Lord, so desperate that he would do whatever it took just to get a glimpse of Him. This included climbing a tree, an act that would be considered shameful for a man of Zacchaeus' social standing. When Zacchaeus finally came face to face with Jesus, he underwent an instant transformation. He gave up half of all his wealth and promised to pay back the people that he cheated 4 times over. Christ responded to this by declaring that Zacchaeus has been saved: "Today salvation has come to this house" (verse 9). The reaction of the crowd was one of shock. How could Christ even think about staying in the house of such a wicked and sinful person? 2 Corinthians 5:17 says that when someone is in Christ, they are a new creation, and that the old has gone, the new has come, and that is exactly what Zacchaeus became: a new creation.

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my life?

LOOK

The Bible tells us that sin is like dirt. It stains us, makes us unclean, and even starts to make us stink. Isaiah 1:18 tells us that every time we sin, it's like pouring a bottle of ketchup on a clean white t-shirt. We might try and clean it up as best we can, but that ketchup is going to leave a big red stain. Zacchaeus had done a lot of things wrong. He had hurt a lot of people and stolen money from them. Zacchaeus was covered in sin, and everyone knew it. In the Bible story that we read, there was only person that wanted to even speak to Zacchaeus, and that was Jesus.

Jesus didn't care how dirty Zacchaeus was. He didn't care how much sin Zacchaeus had committed. Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus because Jesus wanted Zacchaeus to be saved. In the same that you wouldn't let your favorite toy or stuffed animal get thrown into the garbage truck and get taken away forever, Jesus didn't want to lose Zacchaeus. You would go and save your favorite stuffed animal or toy no matter dirty or polluted it had gotten. You would bring it back into the house and you would clean it up, wash it down, and make it as good as new. That is exactly what Jesus wanted to do with Zacchaeus.

LOOK (Continued)

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but Jesus came marching straight over to him and stood at the bottom of the tree that he climbed. Jesus went out of His way to go and speak to Zacchaeus. When Jesus spoke to him, Zacchaeus was changed. It didn't matter what Zacchaeus had done in the past. It didn't matter how many times he had lied, cheated, and stolen. Jesus still wanted to save him. You would save your favorite toy from the trash because you love it. Jesus saved Zacchaeus because Jesus loves Zacchaeus. When God saves someone, we call it salvation.

When Zacchaeus was saved by Jesus, something changed in his life. He didn't want to cheat people anymore. He didn't want to lie to people or hurt them anymore. In fact, Zacchaeus started giving all his money away, helping the people that he used to hurt. Jesus loves you and me just as much as He loved Zacchaeus, and Jesus wants to do the same thing for us that He did to Zacchaeus. He wants to meet with us, spend time with us, clean us and make us a new creation. Today we learn that S if for Salvation because that's what God wants for all of us: salvation.

TOOK

Recap the lesson: Ask the students what it means for us to be saved. Ask them why Jesus would want to save us even though we have sinned and made ourselves unclean.

Pray: Thank the Lord that through Him our sins can be washed as white as snow. Ask Him for the strength to change the things in our lives that are sinful. Praise Him for the work that He did on the cross for us.

Parent Question: What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Why?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 19:1-10 by David Guzik

Luke 19 - The Triumphal Entry

A. Jesus and Zacchaeus

1. (1-4) Zacchaeus climbs a tree and risks ridicule to see Jesus.

Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass thatway.

a. **Jesus entered and passed through Jericho:** Jericho was an ancient and important city, and as Jesus passed through the city on His way to Jerusalem, it seems that the reason was to meet with this **man named Zacchaeus**.

i. Jericho was a prosperous city. "It had a great palm forest and world-famous balsam groves which perfumed the air for miles around. Its gardens of roses were known far and wide. Men called it 'The City of Palms.' Josephus called it 'a divine region,' 'the fattest in Palestine.' The Romans carried its dates and balsam to world-wide trade and fame." (Barclay)

b. **Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector:** Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector, but a **chief tax collector** - and the Jews hated men like him. This was not only due to their natural dislike of taxes, but more so to the fact that due to the practice known as tax farming, the collector made his profit on whatever *extra* he could get away with charging his victims. A tax collector was highly motivated to make the taxes as high as possible.

i. When the tax collectors came to John the Baptist, asking how they could get right with God, he told them *collect no more than what is appointed for you* (Luke 3:13). If you were a tax collector and you were rich, you were a rogue.

ii. Morris on **chief tax collector**: "The title is not found anywhere else, so its precise significance is not known, but it seems to point to the head of the local taxation department."

iii. The name **Zacchaeus** means "pure one." This man was anything but pure - until he received Jesus. "He should by his name have been a puritan (in the best sense), but he was an arch-publican, a public sinner, not simple, but subtle, a griping extortioner, a rich but wretched sycophant." (Trapp)

c. **He sought to see who Jesus was:** Zacchaeus wanted to set his eyes on Jesus; he *sought after Him*. Perhaps Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus accepted people like him; he longed to see this remarkable Man Jesus for himself.

d. **He was of short stature:** His natural state gave him a disadvantage in seeking after Jesus. It also probably affected his personality; small in size, we can imagine how Zacchaeus was mocked and hated by others - and

how he returned the favor by increasing the taxes on his victims.

i. If Zacchaeus had a small heart, he would have given up and not worked to see Jesus. "But Zacchaeus had had a great will to grown rich, and he had found there a way to *that*. And now he had a great will to see Jesus, and he was not the sort of person to be stopped." (Morrison)

e. **He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him:** Because Zacchaeus sought Jesus so intensely, he didn't mind doing something that many thought was beneath the dignity of a grown, wealthy man - he climbed up **a sycamore tree**.

i. He climbed the tree like a little boy, and without knowing fulfilled Jesus' word that unless we become like children we will not see the kingdom of God (Matthew 18:3).

ii. "A traveller describes the tree as being like 'the English oak, and its shade is most pleasing... It is very easy to climb.'" (Barclay)

iii. "I wish there were more of us who did not mind being laughed at if only what we did helped us to see Jesus." (Maclaren)

2. (5-6) Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

a. **He looked up and saw him:** Because Zacchaeus worked hard and risked embarrassment to see Jesus, *Jesus saw him* and did not pass him by. In the best sense, Zacchaeus stood out to Jesus, and Jesus connected with Him.

b. **Zacchaeus, make haste:** Jesus started by calling **Zacchaeus** by name. Jesus knew the importance of a person's name. This may have been the first time Zacchaeus heard someone besides his mother say his name in a kind way.

i. Saying his name made all the difference; Jesus told **Zacchaeus**, "I know you, and I lay some claim upon you."

ii. Jesus knew the importance of a name. He said that He calls His sheep by name: *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out* (John 10:3). In Revelation, we are promised a new name that only God and we know. When we get to heaven, there will be someone there who knows our name.

c. **Make haste and come down:** Jesus told Zacchaeus to *hurry* and to **come down**. If He did not hurry the opportunity might be lost; if he did not lower himself he would never meet Jesus.

i. This says to each, "Come down from your high place; Jesus would never have eaten with Zacchaeus if he stayed in the sycamore tree."

d. **Today I must stay at your house:** Jesus didn't merely want to preach to Zacchaeus and convert him in a spiritual or religious sense. Jesus wanted to have *real relationship* with Zacchaeus, beginning with a meal and time spent together.

i. Jesus invited Himself to spend time with Zacchaeus, the hated outcast. The early church was despised for its acceptance of outcasts (1 Corinthians 1:26-31), but the early Christians regarded this as something glorious, not shameful.

e. **And received Him:** Jesus would only come into the house of Zacchaeus and into his life *if invited, if received*. He received Jesus first, and then started a relationship with Him.

i. “Christ will not force himself into any man’s house, and sit there against the man’s will. That would not be the action of a guest, but of an unwelcome intruder.” (Spurgeon)

ii. Perhaps Zacchaeus had a lot of questions; but he didn’t ask them from the sycamore tree. He came down from the tree, met Jesus, and then asked Him whatever he wanted to.

f. **And received Him joyfully:** Zacchaeus was *happy* to receive Jesus. Jesus called Zacchaeus to Himself, and it was to *Jesus* that he came, and happily so. Zacchaeus received **Him** – that is, Jesus Himself. Not primarily to a creed or a doctrine, not to a theory, and not to a ceremony – but to Jesus.

i. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and would be received into the city with joy, with what is called *the triumphal entry*. Here, before that, He had a different entry into the heart of just *one man*. This entrance, this reception seemed to have more lasting results.

ii. Jesus is joyful to receive sinners, and they are joyful to be saved. We know that the joy of Jesus is greater, because it is more blessed to give than to receive.

iii. Zacchaeus is a model to everyone of how to receive Jesus:

- Receive Jesus by seeking after Him with real effort.
- Receive Jesus by humbling yourself.
- Receive Jesus no matter how sinful or hated you are.
- Receive Jesus as He invites you by name.
- Receive Jesus without delay.
- Receive Jesus by coming down to Him.
- Receive Jesus Himself.
- Receive Jesus into your *life, your home*.
- Receive Jesus joyfully.
- Receive Jesus despite what other say.
- Receive Jesus with repentance and restitution.

3. (7-10) Zacchaeus renounces his sin and Jesus proclaims his salvation.

But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

a. **He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner:** The people (**they all**, not only the religious leaders) thought Jesus had gone too far by associating with a man as bad as Zacchaeus – so they protested.

i. “Jesus Christ did not teach Zacchaeus by going to his house that character was of no consequence; on the contrary, Zacchaeus perceived at once that character was of the greatest consequence, and so he stood forth, and said ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.’” (Spurgeon)

b. **Look, Lord...I restore fourfold:** In receiving Jesus and spending just a little time with Him, Zacchaeus

knew he had to repent and make restitution. First he just sought after Jesus; but in seeking Jesus he also came to seek repentance.

i. Zacchaeus cheerfully offered to do as much or even more than the law demanded. The promise to make restitution to **anyone** he had wronged was remarkable; “Considering the way he had made his money it was unlikely that this would be a short list.” (Morris)

ii. *Can a life change this quickly?* Yes. Not every habit in the life of Zacchaeus changed immediately, but the heart changed and there was some evidence of life-change immediately.

c. **Today salvation has come to this house:** Jesus knew that the repentant Zacchaeus was saved, rescued from the bondage, power, guilt, and penalty of his sin. The word was no longer **sinner** but **salvation**, and Jesus told everyone.

i. Jesus commanded the rich young ruler to give away everything (Luke 18:18-23); but for Zacchaeus it was enough to make restitution to those he had wronged. Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name and knew exactly what *he* must do to repent and be right with God and man.

ii. In Luke 18:24-27, Jesus said that it was impossible with man for the rich to enter into heaven; but it is possible with God. This is a fulfillment of that promise. Zacchaeus became a joyful giver, thus showing God’s *impossible* work in him, but the young ruler went away sorry, holding on to his riches.

d. **Because he also is a son of Abraham:** Since Zacchaeus was so hated by his fellow Jews, they probably often said that he wasn’t a “real” Jew. Jesus wanted everyone to know that Zacchaeus really was a **son of Abraham**, both by genetics and by faith – because he really, joyfully received Jesus.

i. The priests of Jericho (it was a Levitical city) had probably often condemned Zacchaeus and called on him to give to the poor. But after meeting Jesus, such a sacrifice was done joyfully. Love for Jesus can motivate us for greater things than legalism, guilt, or manipulation can ever do.

e. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost:** Jesus explained why He sought and extended friendship to a notorious sinner like Zacchaeus. Jesus came precisely to save people like Zacchaeus.

i. Zacchaeus *really* believed on Jesus. A true **son of Abraham** was not only descended from Abraham genetically, but also had the *faith* in God Abraham had.

ii. Even though Zacchaeus sought Jesus, it turns out that *he* was the one who **was lost**, and *Jesus sought him (has come to seek)*. Zacchaeus was lost to his parents; lost to the religious, lost to his community, lost to whatever friends he might have had – yet in a sense, not lost to God. “As the story of his conversion unfolds, his seeking Jesus (Luke 19:3) turned out to be the result of Jesus’ first seeking him (Luke 19:10).” (Pate)

iii. The entire account with Zacchaeus gives us a remarkable who, what, where, when, why, and how of receiving Jesus.

- *Who* Jesus wants to receive Him: those lost.
- *What* Jesus wants with those who receive Him: relationship.
- *Where* Jesus wants to go: down to Him.
- *When* Jesus wants you to receive Him: immediately, quickly.
- *Why* Jesus wants you to receive Him: to be with Him, to connect with Him in life.
- *How* Jesus wants you to receive Him: joyfully.