



TITLE

WHO IS ZACCHEUS?

OBJECTIVE



Understanding God's love for all people.

SCRIPTURE



BACKGROUND

Tax collectors were hated and were considered to be outcast members of Jewish society. They collected taxes for the Roman authorities. Not only did they collect taxes for the oppressors, but they also would skim off money for themselves. Jesus called a tax collector named Matthew to be one of his disciples, and went to eat at Zaccheus' house.

MATERIALS

POSTER BOARD

PAPER

MARKERS

DRAWING SUPPLIES

PENNIES AND CONTAINERS FOR CHEATER GAME

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Use answers to your questions to decide whether students understand and meet the given objectives. Explain or illustrate further as needed.

Outline

INTRODUCTION

- Activity

Details

Use this time for your normal Sunday School arrival procedures: attendance, singing, etc.

Play a game of Cheater, Cheater (instructions in additional notes)

Have a discussion about cheating:

How many got away with cheating?

How did they feel when they got away with cheating?

And caught?

Connect it to real life cheating? How do you feel?

Tell students today they will be hearing a story about a cheater who was changed by Jesus.

STORY

- Read the story
- Have a discussion
- Memory verse work

Background

Ask students if they know what a tax-collector is and then provide some background information on tax collectors in Jesus' day. If necessary, explain concepts like restitution and repentance.

Choose one of the methods below (all resources in additional notes)

1. Have students stand arms length apart. Tell them that as you read the story, they will act it out on the spot.
2. Read/tell "The Story of Zaccheus Up A Tree" by Paul Dallgas-Frey
3. Use "Powerpoint Visual Aids" to tell the story
4. Show this scene from the Jesus Movie

Making Connections

Use the questions below to make connections to the story:

Where was Zaccheus from?

What was his job?

Why were tax-collectors hated?

What was Zaccheus' problem and how did he solve it?

What happened when he met Jesus?

Why did Jesus show an interest in Zaccheus? How do you know?

How did Zaccheus' life change? How do you know?

Why did the crowd complain?

Even though Zaccheus was hated by the people, Jesus reached out to him. As a result of being with Jesus, Zaccheus repented and his life was changed. He paid back what he taken from others and began to follow Jesus (you can talk about the idea of restitution here).





Outline

ACTIVITIES

- Choose an activity that is appropriate for the age group and time available.
- See additional notes for instructions, ideas and links for the various activities

Details

- Memory verse practice: Luke 19:9. or Psalm 119:130.
- Puzzle or coloring sheets
- Four Scenes Activity
- Moveable Zaccheus Craft

CLOSING

- Prayer requests on large poster paper
- Close with prayer and/or song
- Create interest for next week's journey

- Review main elements of the story.
- Ask students to think of people in their own lives who are lost and whom they want Jesus to rescue.
- Prepare in advance a poster paper with large block letters: P-R-A-Y. Invite students to fill in the letters with the names or pictures of people that they thought of earlier.
- Give your own students an opportunity to become followers of Jesus.
- Pray for names on the chart either in the whole group or have students break into pairs and share and pray.
- Song suggestion: "Zaccheus Was A Very Little Man".
- Tell students that next week they will be going on an adventure/ trip to learn about some people in another country whom Jesus wants to rescue.



Additional Notes

Story

[The Story of Zaccheus Up A Tree¹](#) by Paul Dallgas-Frey

Video

Jesus Movie. Start from 1:12-1:14:28 (Free [online version²](#) or obtain DVD)

[Powerpoint Visual Aids³](#) By Brian W. Chalmers

Free use for churches, show via iPad, laptop, or print out and glue to poster board for story visuals

Memory Verse Practice Suggestion

1. Divide students into two groups and have them stand on opposite ends of the room. Write the memory verse up on the board or on chart paper. One side calls out the first word in the verse, the other side the second and keep going back and forth until the verse is complete. Switch sides when you start the second time.
2. As a class, say the first word of the verse, then the first and second, then the first, second, and third until the verse is complete.
3. Write the memory verse on the board. Each time the class says the verse, erase one or two key words until there are no words left. Invite the whole class and individuals to say the verse from memory
4. Have the class follow you or a student to a location in the classroom. Stop and say the memory verse. Continue on to different locations as time allows, saying the memory verse each time.

Activities

Opening Activity - [Cheater! Cheater!⁴](#) (adapted from online)

Set up two containers of pennies in the middle of the room. Set up two empty containers at one end of the room. Students line up in two lines at the other end of the room.

Designate the first child in each line to be a cheater catcher. Have them stand behind the opposite team's penny container in the middle of the room. It is their job to try to catch the opposite team's runner trying to cheat by taking more than one penny.

The first child in each line runs to the container of pennies. He is allowed to take one penny, but can try to take two or three pennies without getting caught by the cheater catcher. If the cheater catcher catches him taking more than one penny, he calls out "Cheater" and the runner has to stop and show his penny. If the runner has more than one penny, he gives all the pennies in his hand to the other team. If the cheater catcher makes a wrong call, then his team must give two pennies to the other team. The runner then runs to the empty container and deposits his penny. Next the runner runs back to the containers in the middle of the room and swaps places with the cheater catcher. The former cheater catcher runs back to his team and tags the next person in line, returning to the back of his team's line. The tagged team member becomes the next runner.

Repeat until everyone has had a chance to be a cheater catcher and a runner. The team with the most pennies wins.

Four Scenes Activity

Have students fold a sheet of paper into four equal sections. Instruct them to choose four main scenes from the story and illustrate them. They should be able to retell the story using their scenes. If there is time, they can write one or two sentences about each scene. The memory verse could also be added along with what they got out of the story.

Craft

[Moveable Zaccheus Craft⁵](#)

(please note that cellotape in New Zealand is the same as Scotchtape)

Printables

Free Printable Activity Pages for the Zaccheus story

[DLTK Growing Together⁶](#)

Coloring Sheet from [Bible Wonderland⁷](#)

Other Ideas

Various ideas for activities for the Zaccheus Story

[Danielle's Place for Crafts and Activities⁸](#)

1 <http://www.essex1.com/people/paul/bible58.html>

2 <http://www.inspirationalfilms.com/av/watch.html>

3 <http://www.ebibleteacher.com/chalmers/zacchaesus.html>

4 <http://kirkofofildaire.org/quest/FQlessons/ZacchaesusAntiochArcade.htm>

5 <http://growingkidsingrace.blogspot.ca/2011/12/jesus-meets-zaccaheus.html>

6 <http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/zacchaesus-activities.htm>

7 <http://www.biblewonderland.co.uk/downloads.htm>

8 http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_zacchaesus.html