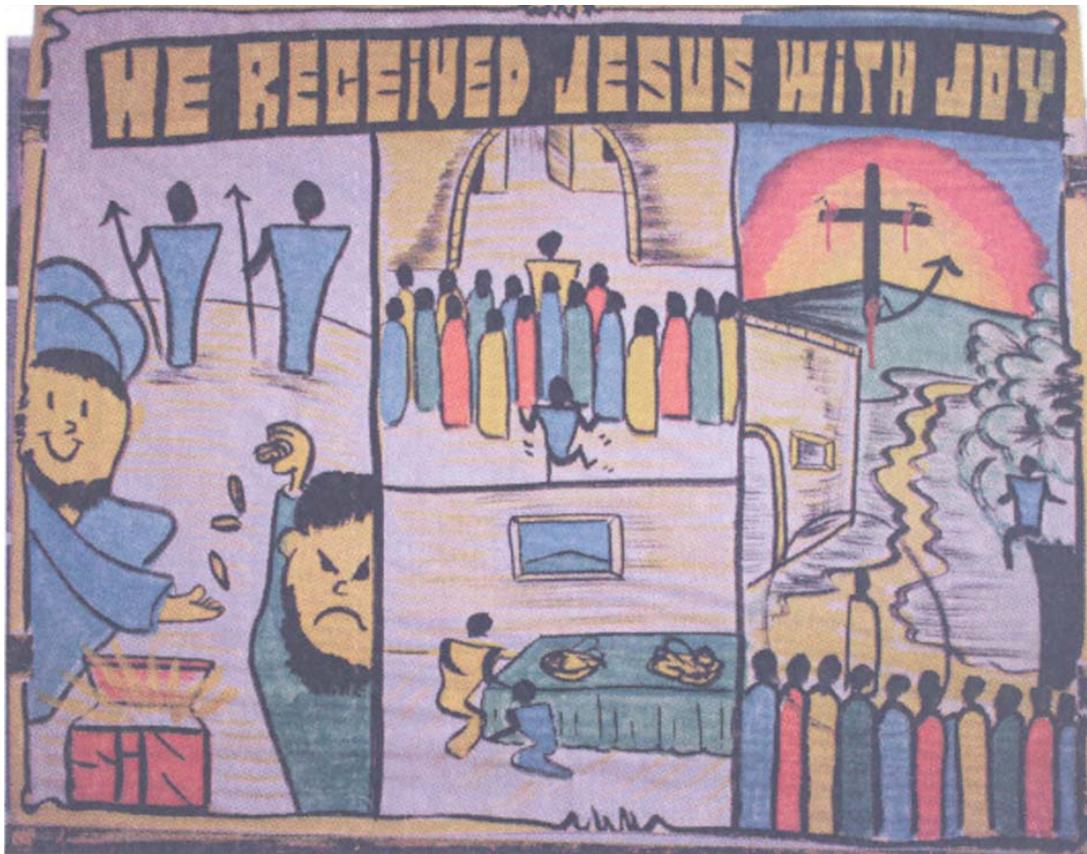




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HE RECEIVED JESUS WITH JOY

(The Zacchaeus Message)

Luke 19: 1-10

Key Verse: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

Introduction: How many kids here would like to be tall someday? It's hard sometimes isn't it when we get into a crowd of people and can't see. It can be even scary if you were to get lost in crowd and couldn't find your Mom. Today, we are going to learn about a man who was short, but didn't allow his "shortness" to get in the way of seeing the greatest person who ever walked the earth.



Center Box: One day a crowd of people was moving through a city called Jericho (draw in the heads of the crowd). Everybody it seemed wanted to see and touch this man who performed miracles and claimed to be God Himself. A man by the name of Zacchaeus was so short he couldn't get a good look at this man (draw in Zac's arm's and leg's, head, try to see). Who was this man that everyone was crowding around (draw in the outline and head of the yellow Jesus)? It was none other than Jesus (draw in Jesus in the title)!

Who was Jesus? Jesus is God in the flesh or in human body. Jesus is the name of God. God had come to earth to bring us into a relationship with Him. To prove Jesus was God, He did miracles like making blind people see and raising people from the dead. Jesus felt compassion for people and even made food so people could eat. This made a lot of people follow Him.

Transition to left box.... But who was Zacchaeus?



Left Box: Zacchaeus was not a good man or a nice man (draw in the smily face of Zac). Why? Zacchaeus was a man who was a tax collector who worked for the Roman government (draw in the head, arm, and spear of the soldiers). What is a tax collector? Back then, the Jewish people had to give some of their money to the Romans even though they didn't want to (start to draw in the sad or angry face to the guy on the right). The Romans were the people that controlled everything and made people give some of their hard-earned money away (draw in the money in the hand). A lot of countries still have this law today. But what made Zacchaeus so bad? Well, Zacchaeus would sit by the city gate and lie and steal money from the people. If they owed \$1.00, Zacchaeus would say you owed \$3.00 and pocket \$2.00 for himself. Everybody knew Zac was stealing, but the Romans let him get away with it, and there was nothing anybody could do about it.

So what was Zac doing? He was sinning (draw in the word sin on the box)! Take a few minutes and teach on what sin is use three or four of the Ten Commandments to define sin. Show the children that they are guilty like Zacchaeus.

Transition to the Right Box: Why would Zacchaeus want to see Jesus so bad? Well, if Jesus was passing through your town, wouldn't you want to see Jesus?



Right Box: The crowds of people passing through Jericho were so great, what was Zacchaeus to do (draw in the heads of the people on the crowd)? Then Zacchaeus had an idea, "I'll climb up into a tree so when Jesus passes by I can see him" (draw Zac up in the tree). So, when the crowd was finally passing through where Zac was, Zac could see him! How great was that! But wait, something amazing happened. Jesus stopped and looked up at Zacchaeus (draw in Jesus on the road).

Jesus said an amazing statement to Zacchaeus "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). Wait a second, how do you think Jesus knew Zac's name? Remember, who IS Jesus? Take a moment to talk again about Jesus' deity.

Well the people in the crowd heard what Jesus said. 19:7 "And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner" (Luke 19:7). The people didn't understand they too were sinners. If they had stolen anything, they were a thief like Zac. If they had ever lied, they were a liar like Zac. Kids, if you have ever lied or stolen, you are a liar and a thief, just like Zac.

Transition to lower middle box: Why would Jesus want to spend time with Zacchaeus? That is a very important question. Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Meaning, Jesus came to rescue people from their sins. And, Zacchaeus was a prime candidate.



Lower Center Box: While at Zacchaeus's house (draw in the bread on the table), Jesus and Zacchaeus spent time together. What was the result? After hearing what Jesus had to say to him, Zacchaeus felt bad about all his sin (draw in the heads and arms of Jesus and Zacchaeus). "And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, .Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold" (Luke 19:8).

Transition to the Gospel: Zacchaeus changed by Jesus and his sins were forgiven? Would you like to know how Jesus can forgive you?



Hill and Sunset (Gospel): The Bible says clearly, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Kids, I have a question for you to help you better understand what Jesus did for us. What do you call it when someone comes into your classroom and takes your teacher's place (Wait for a response)? Yes, that's right. It's called a substitute. A substitute is someone who takes the place of another. Jesus is our substitute. He died in my place. He was innocent. I am guilty. Instead of me dying, Christ died for my sins (see 1 Corinthians 15:3) (draw the nails and blood). After they took Jesus down from the cross they laid His body in a tomb. But the story doesn't end here. After three days, Jesus came out of the tomb and was alive again! Jesus rose from the dead (draw the arrow up)

Call to Respond: We all need to be like Zacchaeus who knew he was bad and needed forgiveness. We need to turn from our own way towards God and put our faith or trust in Jesus as the Son of God (see Acts 20:21) who died for our sins, rose from the dead, and is the only one who can save you from sin, death, and hell.

What are you trusting in today for forgiveness and to go to heaven? Are you trusting that you are a good person, or that you have not done many things wrong? If you are, then you are trusting in yourself. Today, stop trusting in yourself, and realize you need to be saved from your sins, and put your trust in Jesus Christ today as your Savior. When you do that, Jesus will forgive you of your sins and make your life new like He did for Zacchaeus.