

# BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL: ZACCHAEUS

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## Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor;

and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. There are those, like Zacchaeus, that are longing to see and experience what Jesus is all about: compassion, expansive inclusion, healing, new life. Yet those who claim to know Jesus, even love Jesus, can sometimes keep people from experiencing his presence. How does the church—or those who claim to follow Jesus—sometimes make it hard for people to experience and know him?
3. Unlike the “rich young ruler” (Luke 18:8-30), Zacchaeus does not hang on to his wealth and walk away from Jesus. Instead Zacchaeus seeks to generously give away his resources and repair wrongs—even what he may have done accidentally. How is Zacchaeus a model for Christians today?
4. Jesus declares salvation not just on Zacchaeus, but his *house*. What do you think that means?

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