God’s Big Story: Zaccheus

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| scripture focus |
| Luke 19:1-10 |

big picture

I love this story of grace and redemption. Zaccheus, the short corrupt man that nobody liked, is singled out by Jesus for honor. I love to imagine how Zaccheus scrambled down from the tree to prepare for Jesus’ visit, who he might have invited, and the excitement he would have felt. In the end, the unmerited grace that Jesus shows to Zaccheus catches and transforms him, and he vows to do what the rich and righteous young ruler was unable to: let go of his riches because he had found something worth far more. “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus exalts. Salvation – full life and deliverance from death and destruction, not in the future but *today* – came from Jesus’ grace-filled visit and Zaccheus’ responsive, full-hearted obedience, opening his heart and hands and his purse and choosing repentance and justice.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “The man who didn’t have any friends”, p.264-271  *Favorite Parables:* “The Rich Farmer” p.188-213, “The Two Sons”, p.58-83 | Luke 19:1-10  Matthew 21:28-31; Luke 12:16-20 |
| discuss/ ask | Why didn’t people like Zaccheus? Why do you think he wanted to see Jesus?  Is a person who cheats or steals somebody you’d like to be friends and hang out with? Why or why not?  Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to Zaccheus’ house? What do you think Jesus saw in him? How would you feel if Jesus paid special attention to the people who lied and cheated and stole?  How do you think Zaccheus felt when Jesus told him he was coming over? What do you think Zaccheus did to prepare for Jesus?  What do you think made Zaccheus change? What did he promise to do?  What do you think Jesus meant when he said that salvation had come to Zaccheus’ house? How was Zaccheus saved, and what was he saved from?  Was Zaccheus more like the first or the second son in the parable? Why? How was he like (or not like) the rich farmer? | |
| do together | Invite somebody over for a meal or snack that you wouldn’t normally invite; perhaps choose somebody that doesn’t seem to have many friends. Focus on loving them and making them feel welcome.  If you know of a good climbing tree, act out the story of Zaccheus! | |