

Jesus Changes Zaccheus

Luke 19:1-10



Zaccheus, a little man with a lot of money, lived and worked in the city of Jericho. He was not very tall, but he was a rich and important man. He was a top tax collector, called a publican. His job was to make sure people paid the money they owed to the government.

Most people did not like tax collectors. Sometimes, tax collectors like Zaccheus stole money from the people. They made the people pay a bigger tax than they really owed. Then the tax collectors kept the extra money for themselves. It was wrong, but it was an easy way to become rich.

One day Jesus came to Jericho, and Zaccheus went to see Him. Soon Zaccheus found he had a problem. There was a crowd of people around Jesus, and Zaccheus was too short to see over the crowd. How could he get a glimpse of Jesus?

Zaccheus found a way. He ran farther along the street until he came to a sycamore tree growing near the road. He climbed up into the tree and waited for Jesus and the crowd to come by. Now he would be able to see the famous teacher who did many miracles.

When Jesus came to the tree beside the road, he looked up and saw Zaccheus.

“Hurry and come down!” Jesus called. “I’m coming to your house today.”

Zaccheus was surprised but joyful. He scrambled down out of the tree. He was very happy to have Jesus come to his house.

But the other people were not happy. They knew Zaccheus was a tax collector. They didn’t think Jesus should be a guest in a tax collector’s house. But the people didn’t know that Zaccheus wanted to change his ways.

Inside the house, Zaccheus listened to what Jesus said. He knew that sometimes he had done wrong, and he was sorry. He didn’t want to cheat people any more. He wanted to change his ways and do only what was right.

Zaccheus made up his mind. He stood up. “I’m going to give half of my money and things to people who really need them,” he told Jesus. “And if I have cheated anyone, I’ll give them four times as much money back.”

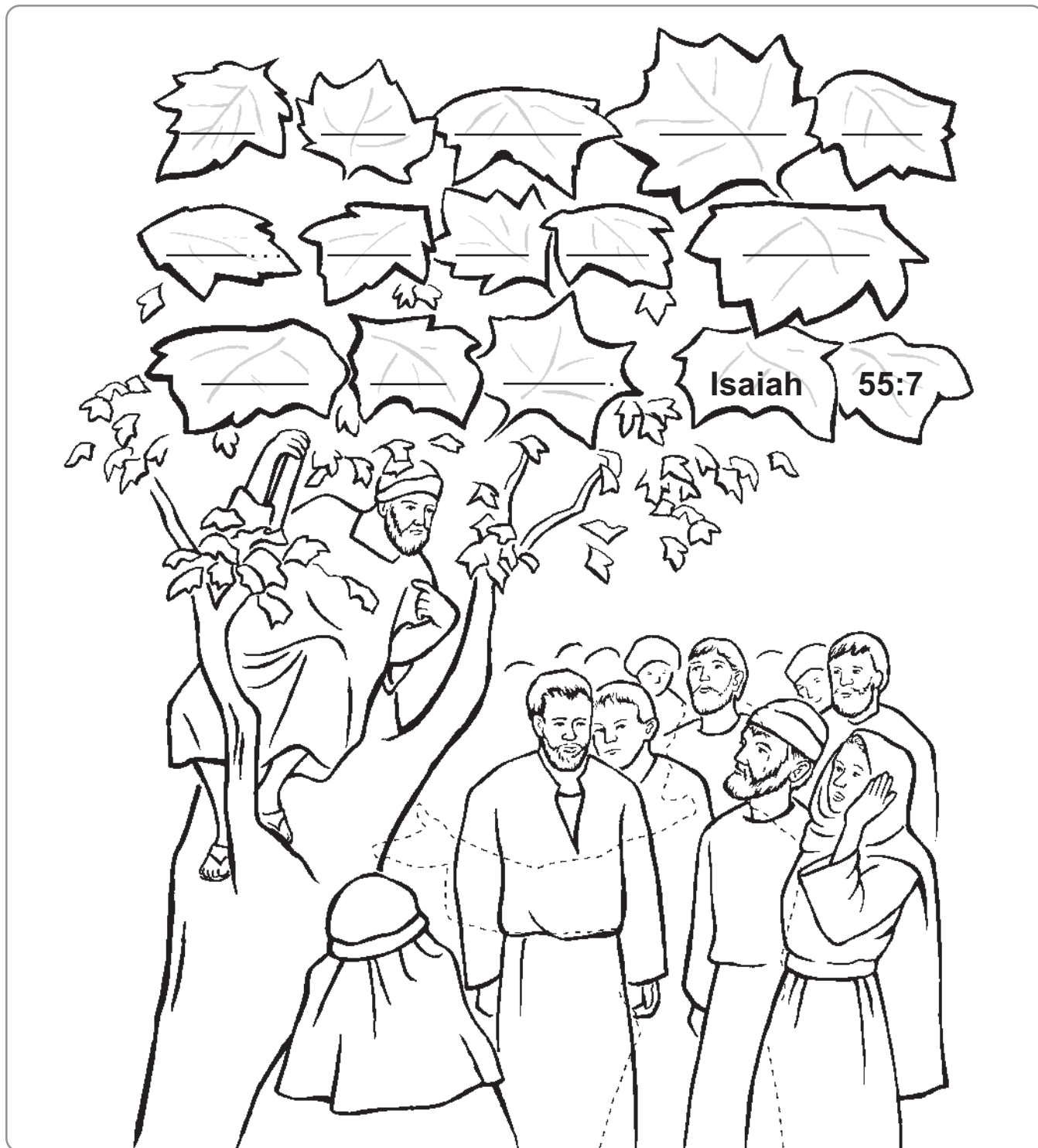
Jesus was pleased with Zaccheus’s plan. He said, “This day is salvation come to this house.” Jesus’ work was to help people change from doing wrong to doing right. That is what Zaccheus decided to do. He made a good choice to turn away from doing wrong.

Memory Verse

Let the wicked forsake his way . . . and let him return unto the LORD. Isaiah 55:7

Write and Learn the Verse

Copy the words of the memory verse in the leaves below. Write one word on each line.



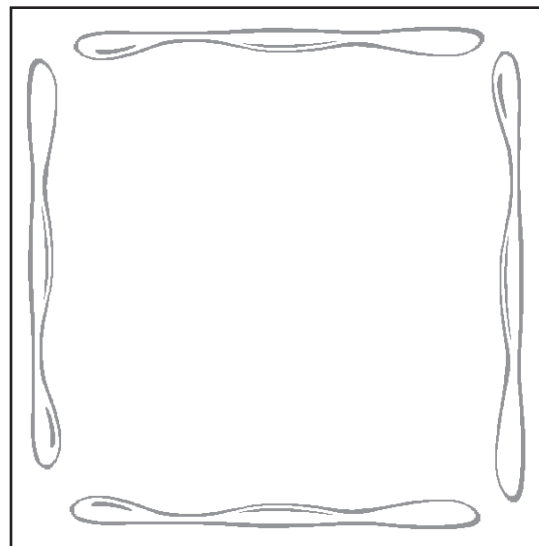
Do You Remember?

Number the scenes 1-4 to show the order in which they happened.



Something To Make

Follow the directions on page 65.



What Is Repentance?

When Zaccheus decided to follow Jesus, he changed. He no longer wanted to be dishonest and greedy. He wanted to make up for all the times he had cheated and been selfish with his money. He wanted to be kind and share what he had with others. When someone changes completely like Zaccheus did, we call it *repentance*.

In the left column are ways people act before they repent. In the right column, fill in the words that show how people act after they repent and follow Jesus. The big letters are the first letters of the answer.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Steal things. | R | — t — — — stolen things. |
| Mock and tease others. | E | — c — — r — g e others. |
| Hardly ever think about God. | P | — — y to God. |
| Grumble and whine. | E | — — o y what you have. |
| Fight back. | N | — v — r fight back. |
| Lie. | T | — — l the truth. |
| Give in to temptation. | A | — t like Jesus. |
| Ignore others. | N | — t — c e people. |
| Behave however you feel. | C | o n — — — l yourself. |
| Cheat to get things you don't earn. | E | — — n what you need. |

*For more activities for Lesson 8, turn to pages 56-57.

Jesus Is Put to Death

Luke 22:39–23:49

Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, some people hated Him. He did many good things for people, but He had some enemies. The Jewish leaders didn't believe that He was the Son of God. They hated Him and planned to kill Him.

Jesus knew the time of His death was not far away. He was going to die so that people's sins could be forgiven and they could go to Heaven. Jesus loved people so much that He was willing to die for them.

One night Jesus led His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. While they waited, He prayed alone to His Father about the painful death He knew was coming. God heard His prayer, and angels came to give Him strength.

A large group of soldiers clattered into the garden. In front of them walked Judas. Judas had been one of Jesus' disciples, but now he helped arrest Jesus.

At first the disciples tried to help Jesus, but then they ran away. Peter swung his sword at one of the men and cut off his ear. But Jesus told His disciples not to fight. He placed the man's ear back on his head again so it was as good as new.

The next morning the Jewish leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the governor. They told lies to Pilate. They said Jesus told people to disobey the government and that He was trying to make Himself king.

Pilate asked Jesus some questions. Finally, he told the Jewish leaders, "I find

nothing wrong with this man." But the Jews demanded that Pilate punish Jesus.

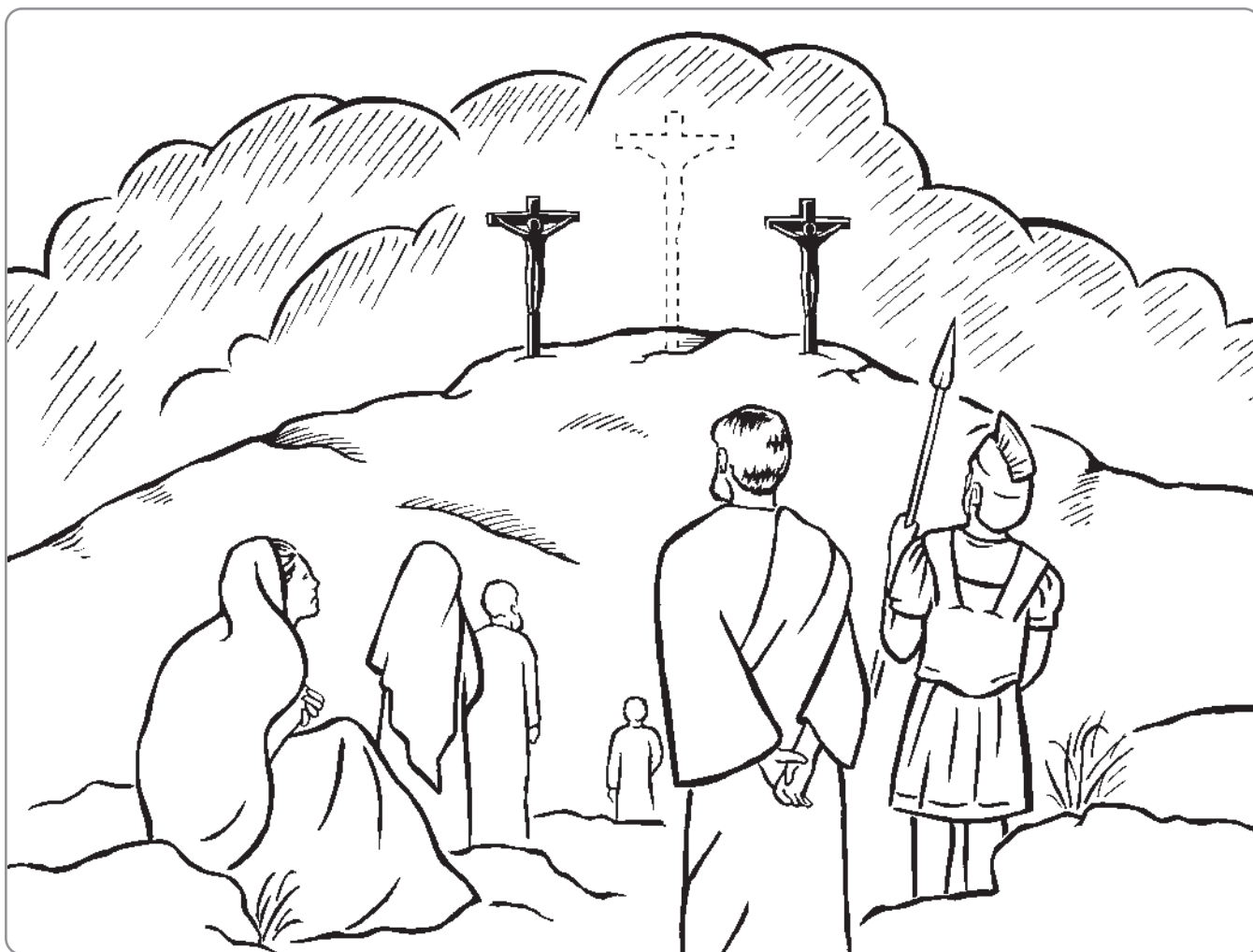
Pilate was afraid of what the Jews would do if He let Jesus go. So his soldiers whipped Jesus. They rammed a wreath of thorns onto Jesus' head, calling it a crown. While Jesus stood quietly, they spit on Him, slapped Him, and made fun of Him.

The soldiers took Jesus to a hill called Calvary. They nailed His hands and feet to a cross. Two thieves were put to death with Him. Some people came to watch. Some of them made fun of Jesus, but some of them, like His mother, were very sad that He was dying.

Even though Jesus was hurting badly as He hung on the cross, He asked God to forgive the men who hated Him. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing," He prayed.

Although it was midmorning, the sky became very dark. It was dark for three hours while Jesus hung dying on the cross. Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" and He died. An earthquake shook the ground. The watching people were frightened. A Roman soldier said, "Surely this man was the Son of God."

The soldier didn't know that the Son of God had died for him. Jesus died so that anyone who believes in Him does not have to be punished for their sins. If they love Jesus, God will forgive their sins and they will live with Him after they die.



Memory Verse

Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us. Galatians 1:4

Write and Learn the Verse



_____ .
Write the first 3 words of the verse on the lines above.



_____,
Write the next 3 words of the verse here.



Write the next 3 words of the verse here.



_____.
Write the next 2 words of the verse here.

Do You Remember Who Jesus Is?

Draw lines connecting the dots to match each picture with its description of who Jesus is.



Loves children

Helper and healer



The Son of God




Creator of everything

Color the shape that reminds us of Jesus' death.

Something to Make

Follow the directions on page 63 to make a little book about Jesus' crucifixion.

When you are done, tell someone how Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin.

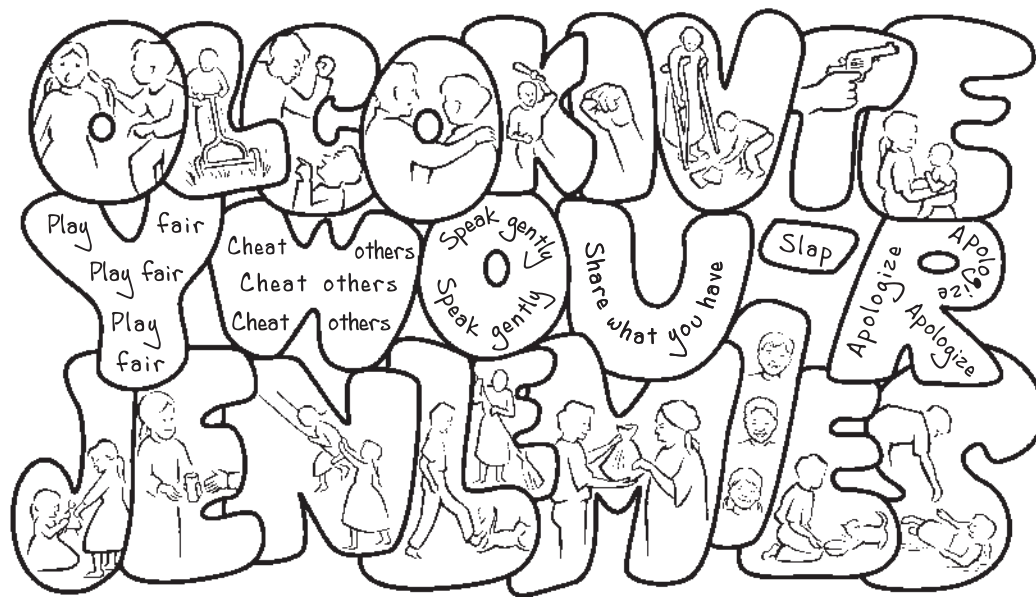


**Jesus
Died
Because
He Loves
Us!**

Not Fighting Back

When Jesus was whipped and mocked, He did not fight back. He wants His followers to follow His example. Jesus taught us to do kind things, even to people who are mean to us.

Color the letters yellow that show kindness. Color the letters brown that show unkind actions.



The yellow letters spell words that tell what Jesus wants us to do. **Write them below.**

Read each story below and think about two ways that a person could act. Circle the letter of the way Jesus would have acted.

- Alan saw the soccer ball coming toward him. He raced forward, ready to kick it to the goal. Just then, Roger, who was on the other team, stuck out his foot and tripped Alan.
 - Alan could get up and dust himself off and keep playing.
 - Alan could get mad and punch Roger for tripping him.
- Rosita had a clay dish her aunt had brought her from Mexico. Her cousin Samantha came to visit. Samantha said the dish was ugly. She began tossing it up in the air and catching it. "Please don't drop it," Rosita begged. But Samantha tossed it again and missed. It fell on the floor in a dozen pieces. Samantha laughed and ran out of the room.
 - Rosita could smash something of Samantha's to get even.
 - Rosita could pick up the pieces and forgive Samantha for causing the accident.

*For more activities for Lesson 9, turn to pages 58-59.