



Luke 19:1-10

Aim: to know that being friends with Jesus helps us to be better, kinder people



To be a tax collector in Jesus's day was to be even more unpopular than it would be today! The trouble was that these were Jewish men taking money from fellow Jews in Jerusalem and giving the money to the Romans who had taken power. To top that there was wide-scale swindling going down. Tax collectors were therefore seen to be amongst the lowest of the low. Many questioned why Jesus gave so much time to tax collectors and the like. They didn't understand his mission to seek and save the lost. Thankfully, Jesus did and Zacchaeus had his life transformed, as a result.



Give 5 children an enlarged 'golden' coin each.

Let's sing 5 current buns in a baker's shop. If you have a penny, come along to buy a current bun when I point to you. If you haven't got a penny help me with the actions.

Sing 5 Current buns in a baker's shop together. Collect the coins through the song and hold them up.

That was fun. Now I have 5 shiny golden coins. I wonder what I will do with them?



In our story today we will hear about a man called Zacchaeus, who loved to collect coins. (Hold up your coins). Sometimes Zacchaeus took more than he should and he didn't have many friends because he was a cheat. Let's here the story to find out about something amazing that happened.

Read Jesus the friend, pg. 198

Use a doll/teddy to be Zaccheus. Encourage the children to stand up and wave at Jesus and demonstrate how 'Zaccheus' can't see over them until he has climbed on something higher. Explain how when he became Jesus's friend, Zaccheus stopped cheating people and gave away the money he had taken. If appropriate share some chocolate coins with everyone



- *I wonder how Zacchaeus felt like when Jesus stopped and called his name*
- *I wonder what Jesus and Zacchaeus had for tea*
- *I wonder what the people thought when Zacchaeus gave them their money back*



Read: Zacchaeus by Karen Williamson (2-4yrs) or The little man whose heart grew big, Steph Williams (2-4yrs)

Give everyone 10 beans/beads/coins. Set up a 'toll' and take a tax every time everyone goes past. Every few rounds, redistribute the 'money' fairly to everyone. Make up some unfair rules like you pay more if you are wearing trainers or have blonde hair. See what happens and talk about the fairness and unfairness of tax. Look up Luke 19:8 and see what Zaccheus the corrupt tax collectors response was to meeting Jesus



- Play stick Zacchaeus in the tree. Blindfolded game replacing a donkey and tail with a tree and Zacchaeus figure
- Role play: play at making tea for Jesus with toy tea sets



- Free printable craft: Zacchaeus up a tree. Follow the link for the printout and simple instructions
<https://www.mrsjonescreationstation.com/the-story-of-zacchaeus/?epik=dj0yJnU9LUNHRWxuYTIldi0zOWo2XzlvWXMzZkdTSDRuRmo5clAmcD0wJm49ZDR6U2IRSnJRekhPYS1xZktIOHhLUSZ0PUFBQUFBR04zcnM4>



Lets practice the signs for 'friend': (clasp own hands loosely and shake them)

<https://youtu.be/r5qBOTkjBi0>

And 'sorry': (put a hand in a fist and rub in a circle around in front of the chest.)

<https://youtu.be/Bo5bXFxUjXI>

Dear Lord Jesus

I'm sorry that I'm not always

kind to my friends.

Thank you that you

Want me to be a good friend.

Thank you that you are my friend.

Amen (Rolling arms upwards for a slow loud amen)



- Bananaman
- He says that you're amazing
- Zacchaeus:
<https://youtu.be/ONRxHcjuCM4>
- Jesus is my friend:
<https://youtu.be/AXHeFXjE12s>



Watch a video clip of the story at home:

<https://youtu.be/qNqjKriQBdu>

Challenge families to offer acts of kindness during the coming week like taking a batch of cakes or a homemade card to take round to a neighbour