Bible for Children presents

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JESUS AND ZACCHEUS

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One day, Jesus passed through Jericho. This city had been destroyed by Joshua long ago. Now it was rebuilt and many people lived there. Among them was a man named Zaccheus.





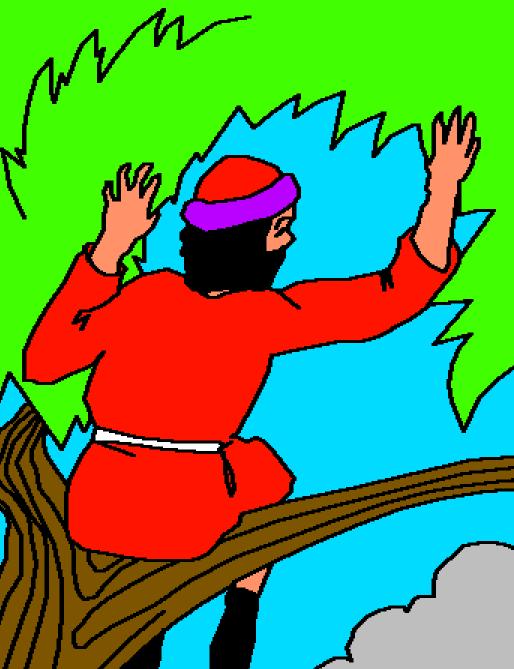
Probably the other people in Jericho did not like Zaccheus very much because he collected tax money from them. Zaccheus sent some of the money to the government but kept a lot for himself. Being a tax collector made Zaccheus very rich. His house may have been the BIGGEST and the BEST in the block. But he was also very short - not short of money, but short of height. Zaccheus had never grown as tall as other people.





When Zaccheus heard that Jesus was in Jericho, the little tax collector wanted to see the Man from Nazareth Who claimed to be God's Son. But the crowds were thick ... the people tall.

Zaccheus had an idea! If he could get ahead of the crowd... climb a tree that overhung the road... he would be able to see Jesus.



Climbing up a sycamore tree, Zaccheus found a comfortable fork in the branches and settled down to wait for Jesus. "I'll have a good view," he may have thought. "I will see Him without being seen."

"Zaccheus, hurry and come down." The little tax collector could not believe his ears. Jesus stood under the tree. Jesus was looking at him. Jesus was calling him!



If Zaccheus was surprised to hear Jesus call him, he must have been amazed when Jesus said, "Today I must stay at your house." Zaccheus came down so fast he almost fell.



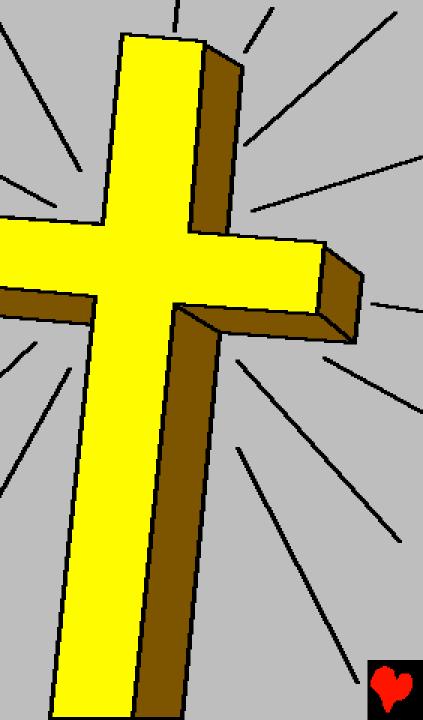
Zaccheus was thrilled that Jesus would visit his house. But the people didn't like it. They complained that Jesus should not visit a sinner like

Zaccheus.

Jesus brought a whole new life to Zaccheus. Zaccheus said, "Lord, I give half my goods to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will give back four times as much."



Jesus was pleased at Zaccheus' new life. He loves to see people turn from sin and do what is right. Jesus said, "The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost." That day in Jericho, Jesus found Zaccheus!



Jesus and Zaccheus

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Luke 19

"The entrance of Your Words gives light." Psalm 119:130

The End

This Bible story tells us about our wonderful God who made us and who wants us to know Him.

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The punishment for sin is death, but God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and be punished for our sins. Then Jesus came back to life and went home to Heaven! If you believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive your sins, He will do it! He will come and live in you now, and you will live with Him forever.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God: Dear God, I believe that Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so that I can have new life now, and one day go to be with You forever. Help me to live for You as Your child. Amen.

Read the Bible and talk with God every day! John 3:16