



Camp RidgeKids 2025 | Preschool Bible Story (Day 2)

Day 2 Bible Story Script: Jesus Sees Zacchaeus

Text: Based on Luke 19:1-10

Big Idea: *Jesus saw someone others didn't like and treated him like he mattered.*

Waypoint: *Boldness – I can treat others like they matter.*

Key Phrase: *Key Phrase (repeat often): "Jesus saw Zacchaeus!"*

1. Let's Talk About Feelings – Being Left Out

Storyteller:

Have you ever felt left out?

- Maybe someone didn't let you play...
- Or they said something mean...
- Or maybe you felt really, really small?

(Use hands to show "small.")

Today we're going to hear about someone who felt just like that—his name was **Zacchaeus!**

Let's all say his name together: "Zack-KEY-us!"

2. Zacchaeus and the Coins

(Hold up a velvet bag with plastic coins. Jingle it a little.)

Zacchaeus had LOTS of money. Want to hear it?

Shake the bag!

He had a job collecting money, but...

He **took too much**.

He didn't just take money for the government—he took **extra for himself**.

Let's hand out **3 coins** to each of you!

(Use real or pretend coins. Leaders can help.)

Now let's play pretend. I'm Zacchaeus. I'm coming to get your **taxes!**

Take **1 coin** from each child.

Then say: "Actually... I'm gonna take **one more coin**... just because I want it!"

(Take a second coin from each child.)

That's what Zacchaeus did.

He got rich... but no one liked him.

3. Zacchaeus Wants to See Jesus

One day, Jesus was coming to town!



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Everyone was so excited! Let's all shout, "Jesus is coming!"

But there were LOTS of people. A big crowd!
And guess what? Zacchaeus was short. Show me with your hands—how short was he?

He tried to look... but he couldn't see over the crowd!

So what did he do?

He ran ahead and climbed a... what kind of tree?
A sycamore tree!

Let's all climb like Zacchaeus—reach up high! Climb! Climb!

4. Jesus Stops and Sees Him

Jesus was walking through the crowd...
And He stopped.

He looked up into the tree and said something amazing:

"Zacchaeus! Come down! I'm coming to your house today!"

WHOA!

Everybody else didn't like Zacchaeus...
But **Jesus saw him.**

Let's say it together: "Jesus saw Zacchaeus!"

5. Zacchaeus is Changed

Zacchaeus climbed down *really fast!*
He was so happy!

No one had ever treated him like this before.
Not like a joke. Not like a bad guy.

Jesus made Zacchaeus feel like he **mattered.**

And guess what Zacchaeus did?

He said:



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“I will give money to the poor. And if I took too much, I’ll give it back!”

(Now give coins back to the kids—even more than you took!)

Zacchaeus’ heart had changed because **Jesus was kind** to him.

6. What Can We Learn?

When someone feels left out...

Or when other people don’t treat them nicely...

We can be like Jesus.

We can show them that they **matter**.

Let’s say it again:

“Jesus saw Zacchaeus!”

“I can treat others like they matter!”

Because when we do, it just might change someone’s heart, just like Zacchaeus.