

Good News for Zacchaeus

The four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us in different ways about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. They are all about the difference that Jesus can make and that's good news - which is what the word gospel means. Jesus was good news for all, even for people like Zacchaeus

Jesus loved everyone and saw the good in them, and that included Zacchaeus who had tricked and cheated and robbed his fellow Israelites. Zacchaeus was a hated man as he was working for the Romans, which is why he had to hide in a tree when he wanted to see Jesus. Jesus knew the bad things that Zacchaeus had done, but he knew too that he was capable of so much better and so he gave him the honour of spending time with him and this simple act of love changed Zacchaeus for ever as we will see.

Story: [Zacchaeus](#) - Crossroads Kids Club

Song time: [I've got the joy, joy, joy.](#) - Heritage Kids

Craft: Follow the steps in the instructions provided make a climbing Zacchaeus Picture. While you are making your picture talk together about how Zacchaeus felt before and after meeting with Jesus.



Prayer time:

Loving Jesus you always see the best in us,
even when we are doing things that are bad.

Help us to respond to your love;
as we first recognise that we have done that is wrong;
and then look for ways to put things right.

Thank you that through it all you go on loving us. Amen.

Song time: [Jesus is the Great, Good News](#) - The Good News Club

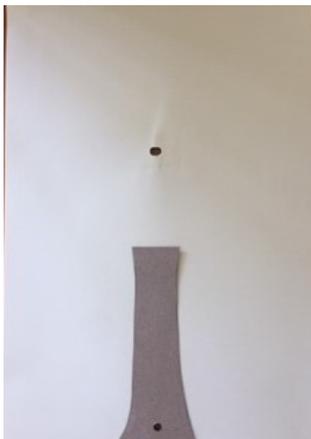
Activity: Over the next week use your good news sheet to record all the positive things that have happened. Perhaps you could share the news with friends and encourage them to do the same thing.

Instructions for Craft

You will need some backing card, some dark wool, scissors, glue, green and brown paper (or cut out shapes in white paper and colour in), colouring pencils or felt tip pens.

Please see next sheet for shape guide, or use it as a template to cut out.

Begin by colouring in your cut-outs figures of Jesus and Zacchaeus. It is best to stick Zacchaeus on to some thick paper or card to make a strong backing.



stick the trunk of the tree on to your backing card. Make holes in these positions.



Make a hole in the large green leaves outline and match it to the backing card. Stick it down leaving the edges free.



Cut a long piece of dark wool and stick to the back of Zacchaeus., only up to his shoulder height and leaving his head free.



Thread the ends of the wool through the two holes and tie securely at the back. Trim the ends of the wool. Draw lines on the trunk of the tree.



With Zacchaeus pulled to the top place the smaller green leaves outline so that he can look over the top. Stick the edges making sure to leave the top and bottom free of glue, and making a rounded gap.

Stick Jesus on to your picture.



Decorate the tree to make it look like leaves.

Now Zacchaeus can climb up and down when you move the string.

Why not draw his house in the space that is left.



GOOD NEWS SHEET