

## Teaching Plan - People Jesus Met - Zacchaeus

Aim - To show that Jesus wants everyone to be his friend



Welcome



Luke 19:1-10

**Question:** What makes a good friend? Invite group members to talk about their friends - what makes a good friend and how they can be a good friend to others. **(Just be sensitive as many people with learning disabilities don't have many or any friends).**



Drama

**Zacchaeus** had no friends. He was sad and lonely because nobody liked him. He worked for the Tax Office and his job was to collect money from people to pay for roads, schools, hospitals and collecting the rubbish. But **Zacchaeus** was greedy. He asked for a lot more money than he was supposed to and kept some of it for himself - in other words **Zacchaeus** was a cheat. **Zacchaeus** had loads of money but no friends.

One day, **Zacchaeus** heard that **Jesus** was coming to the city of Jericho where he lived. It was a big place like Edinburgh or Glasgow. **Zacchaeus** had heard about **Jesus**. He said 'I'd like to see **Jesus**. So **Zacchaeus** went to wait by the roadside until **Jesus** came. But lots of people were already there and they would not let **Zacchaeus** join them. They said "get lost **Zacchaeus**". That made **Zacchaeus** very sad.

**Zacchaeus** was not very tall. He couldn't see over the heads of the people in front of him, even if he stood on tiptoe. What was he going to do?

Then **Zacchaeus** had a great idea. He'd climb up a tree. He could see **Jesus**, but no one could see him. But **Zacchaeus** was wrong.

When **Jesus** came along the road, he saw **Zacchaeus** hiding in the tree. **Jesus** stopped and looked up into the leaves. Jesus said 'Come down here,' to **Zacchaeus**. 'I'd like to come to your house. We'll have a meal together.' Then **Zacchaeus** hurried home to make sure that his house was clean and tidy and that he had some good food in for dinner. (What do you think would be a good meal for Jesus?)

**Zacchaeus** was really excited. **Jesus** wanted to be his friend!

While they ate some food, **Jesus** and **Zacchaeus** talked. **Zacchaeus** knew that he was wrong to be greedy and take money from other people so he told Jesus "I'm very sorry. I will pay it all back - and some extra money as well to show how sorry I am." Now **Zacchaeus** and **Jesus** were friends and Zacchaeus made other friends too - people liked him now because he was honest and gave away money to help others who needed it.

If acting out the story could use real money, chocolate coins, monopoly money or make your own with signs below from the Change picture bank ([www.changepeople.co.uk](http://www.changepeople.co.uk)) Zacchaeus will need lots of money to pay back more than he took from them.





**Talk** - talk through what happened in the drama bringing out the main points that Jesus wants to be friends with everyone and Zacchaeus realised he had been living wrongly.



### **Prayer Time**

Have some quiet background music playing - pass round a mirror (or mirrors depending on size of group) - explain that as people look in the mirror they will see a friend of Jesus - suggest that as they look in the mirror they say thank you to Jesus for being their friend.



### **Possible Craft**

Make a placemat - cut out pictures from magazines of cutlery, plate, mug or cup, or pictures of favourite foods etc and stick onto A4 paper. Or decorate A4 paper any way you like to remind you of the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus. Laminate the decorated paper so it could be used as a wipe-clean placemat. You would need A4 laminating pouches and access to a laminator. Hopefully it will help people remember, when they sit down to eat, how Jesus and Zacchaeus became friends.



### **Possible Songs**

We are here together (Prospects)  
I'm special because God has loved me  
Come on and celebrate.