

## Jesus meets a man who climbed a tree

Find some building blocks, Duplo or boxes. What is the tallest tower you can build? You could do it together or take it in turns and set a time limit.

Imagine your tower is life sized, what might you be able to see from the top?



In today's story, Jesus met a man who climbed a tree so that he could see what was going on!

### Watch together:

Mary tells the story in this video: <https://youtu.be/gkUBtt1UeJs>

And you can read the story in Luke 19:1-10 or a children's story Bible.

You might like to retell the story using small world figures.

### Chat together:

What sort of man was Zacchaeus at the beginning of the story?

Why do you think Zacchaeus was so keen to see Jesus?

What surprised you most about this story?

I wonder what Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about?

What sort of man was Zacchaeus at the end of the story? How had he changed?



### Make together:

Mary's magazine trees - take a page from a magazine (ask first!) and roll it up, use a piece of sticky tape to hold it together towards one end. Use some scissors to cut down from the other end, about 10cm deep, a few times around the tube. Then carefully pull the tree 'out' from the middle at that end so that it looks like a palm tree!

What kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb? Was it a palm tree?



Make a working model - you'll need some paper or card, some string or wool, sticky tape, glue and some scissors. Draw a tree! Or you could draw around your hand and forearm on a piece of brown paper and cut it out for the trunk and branches. Cut out some leaves from green paper and stick them on the tree or draw leaves on your tree. Draw a picture of Zacchaeus on a separate piece of paper and cut him out. Make a hole at the bottom of the tree trunk and another higher up in the tree. Stick a length of string or wool to the back of the picture of Zacchaeus, thread the ends through the holes and tie the ends together at the back. Now you should have a working model that will remind you of the story! Why not draw Jesus too?



### **Pray together:**

The amazing thing in this story is that Jesus knew Zacchaeus wanted to be his friend and he accepted him just as he was. The crowd saw someone who was greedy and cheated people but Jesus saw someone who needed God's love. Zacchaeus met Jesus and was changed, he made a new start.

Just as Jesus knew Zacchaeus' heart so God knows our hearts too.

Sometimes we do things that we shouldn't, maybe say things we shouldn't say or don't do something we should do but Jesus still loves us and can help us to change so that we become more like him!

You might like to spend a few moments thinking about anything that you would like to say to Jesus, maybe imagine he has come to your house for tea - what would you like to say to him? Finish with a prayer thanking Jesus for being our friend and loving us just as we are.

### **Other activities to try:**

Tallest trees - Have a go at making a tree out of a newspaper and sticky tape, how tall can you make it and will it stand up? You could have a competition between family members to see whose tree is the tallest or stands up the best!





When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Luke 19:5-6