

## Summer Bible Story Activities

# Zacchaeus

### Where to find the story of Zacchaeus

- Luke 19:1-10
- *Spark Story Bible: Family Edition* pages 326-331
- *The Story of Jesus' Teaching and Healing*



### This week's activities

- Craft activities
  - Crayon Melt Leaf
    - Kids use warmed crayons to color leaves as they remember that meeting Jesus changes lives
  - "Jesus Love Me" Self-Portrait
    - Kids create self-portraits to remind them that Jesus loves us before we are perfect
- Cooking activity
  - Zacchaeus Trees
    - Kids make shortbread cookies of Zacchaeus in a tree to remember how Jesus seeks out everyone
- Activity pages
  - The Big Z Giveaway
  - Careful Climbing
  - Treetop Message
- Coloring pages
  - Let kids color their way through the story of Zacchaeus
- Song
  - Teach kids a fun song about Zacchaeus

### Making faith connections

Here are a few suggestions for ways you can enrich your child's engagement and learning with the story of Zacchaeus.

- Family conversations
  - What is your favorite meal to make and share when you have a friend over?
  - What would you make for dinner if Jesus came to your house?
  - When you don't like a certain person, how do you deal with them?
- Go to a park near your house together and climb as high as you safely can on the playground equipment. How far can you see? Do you think you are as high as Zacchaeus was in the tree?
- Brainstorm together all the different ways your family cares for others. Include big and little things, money given and time shared, random acts of kindness, and planned giving of yourselves and/or your resources. Is there another way you can care for others?

### A Prayer to Say Together

Thank you, Jesus, for loving everyone. Help us to remember that your love is big and without exception. Help us to love in the same way. Amen.

Find more great stuff at [sparkhouse.org](http://sparkhouse.org)



# Zacchaeus Craft Activity

## "Jesus Loves Me" Self-Portrait

Kids create self-portraits to remind them that Jesus loves us before we are perfect.

### Supplies:

- Newspaper
- Scissors (adult)
- Watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Brushes
- Small containers for water
- Water
- Mirrors, one or more
- Black construction paper or mat board
- Glue
- Marker (optional)

### Set Up:

Cover your table with newspaper. Set out the watercolor supplies. Place mirrors so kids can see themselves. Cut construction paper or mat board to size for framing.

### Instructions:

**This week's story told us all about a man named Zacchaeus who didn't have many friends. He was a bully and a tax collector who was mean to the people around him. But when Jesus saw Zacchaeus watching him from the tree, Jesus knew what to do. He greeted Zacchaeus with love and asked to have dinner with him in his home. Jesus loved Zacchaeus even before he became a good man. I have something to tell you: Jesus loves us before we are perfect! Isn't that great news? Today, we're going to make self-portraits – a reminder of Jesus' love for each of us.**

1. Encourage kids to look in a mirror before they begin to paint their self-portraits.
2. To get kids started, have them paint a large oval on their paper to create a face shape, then move on from there.
3. Once kids have finished their paintings, set them aside to dry.
4. Mat each painting with black paper or mat board and glue.
5. Display kids' portraits on your refrigerator or in another location in your home where they will see it.

**I'm so glad that God made you just the way you are and that Jesus loves us before we are perfect!**

# Zacchaeus Craft Activity

## Crayon Melt Leaf

Kids use warmed crayons to color leaves as they remember that meeting Jesus changes our lives!

### Supplies:

- Newspaper
- Food warming trays, several
- White paper
- Precut leaf shape templates
- Pencils with some or all of the eraser remaining
- Scissors
- Crayons, large and broken
- Black permanent marker (optional)

### Set Up:

Cover your table with newspaper. Locate several food warming trays. (These are electric and keep a low heat that will melt crayons for this project.) Draw and cut out leaf templates that are approximately 6" (15 cm) in diameter. Lay the broken crayons in piles on the table near the warming trays.

### Instructions:

**At the beginning of today's story, Zacchaeus was a mean guy whom nobody liked very much. But when he met Jesus, Zacchaeus learned a very important lesson. Jesus taught Zacchaeus that God wants people to care for each other. After Zacchaeus heard that, he was changed forever. People in the Bible learned that meeting Jesus changes lives, and we have learned that lesson, too. We know that meeting Jesus changes our lives, just like it changed the life of Zacchaeus. Today, we're going to do a really fun art project that will teach us more about changes.**

1. Show kids the leaf shapes you have made and invite them to trace several leaves onto the white paper.
2. Have kids cut out their traced leaves.
3. Show kids how to place a leaf on the warming tray, pressing the eraser end of a pencil to the leaf to hold it in place.
4. Give each kid a turn to hold a crayon on his or her leaf until the crayon begins to melt. Once the melting begins, invite kids to color their leaves with their softened crayons to create a special, melty design. Invite kids to color each of their leaves entirely, changing crayon colors if they like.
5. Once kids are finished coloring, set their leaves aside to cool.

**Your leaves are beautiful! Leaves are always changing – they grow, change**

**colors, and fall to the ground. Just like the weather changes leaves, Jesus can make big changes. Jesus changes our lives!**

## Zacchaeus Cooking Activity

The story of Zacchaeus can be found in Luke 19:1-10 or on pages 326-331 of *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

### Zacchaeus Trees

*\*\*Materials needed: shortbread cookies in shape of man, pretzels of different types, whipped topping, cups, green food coloring, napkins*

Have kids work with you to make the shortbread cookies following these directions:

Recipe for shortbread: (makes about 2 dozen)

1. Ingredients: 1 cup unsalted butter at room temp, ½ cup powdered sugar, 1 tsp vanilla, 2 cups all purpose flour, ¼ tsp salt
2. Preheat oven to 350
3. Mix ingredients in a bowl to make dough.
4. Place dough on lightly floured surface and knead.
5. Roll one tablespoon of dough between palms to form one inch ball. Flatten and cut with cookie cutter. Repeat.
6. Place cookies 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet.
7. Lightly sprinkle with sugar.
8. Bake for 20 minutes.
9. Immediately remove from oven and cool.

Explain to kids that they will be making a scene from the Zacchaeus story with various food items. Pass out a paper plate and napkin to each child.

Have available: different types of pretzels (rods, rounds, sticks, etc), a cup filled with whipped topping with green food coloring mixed in, and the Zacchaeus cookies. Explain that the cookies are made of SHORTbread to help them remember that Zacchaeus was short.

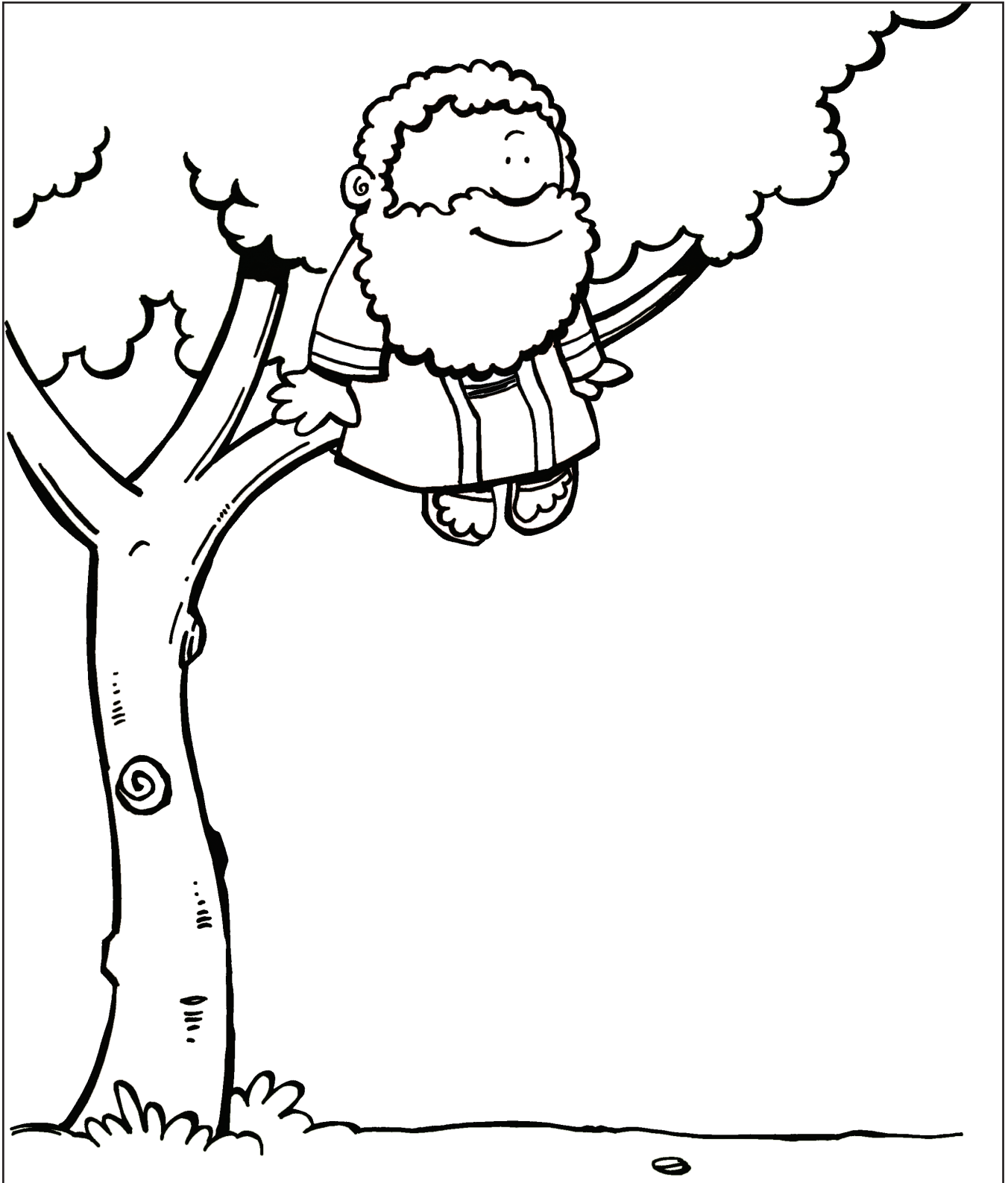
Have children make a tree with pretzels (rod for trunk, rounds and sticks for branches), and use green whipped topping as leaves on the tree.) Put the Zacchaeus cookie in the tree. After they have completed, tell the story of Zacchaeus (refer to Scripture references

or Spark Story Bible reference above) and have the cookie in the tree jump down from the tree when time.

## **Prayer Time**

Dear God,  
Thank you for seeking out and loving everyone.  
Help us to love everyone, too. Transform us as Jesus transformed Zacchaeus.  
Amen.

# Zacchaeus



Zacchaeus climbed the tree. Now he could see everything.

# Zacchaeus



“This way, Jesus,” said Zacchaeus. “This is the way to my house.”



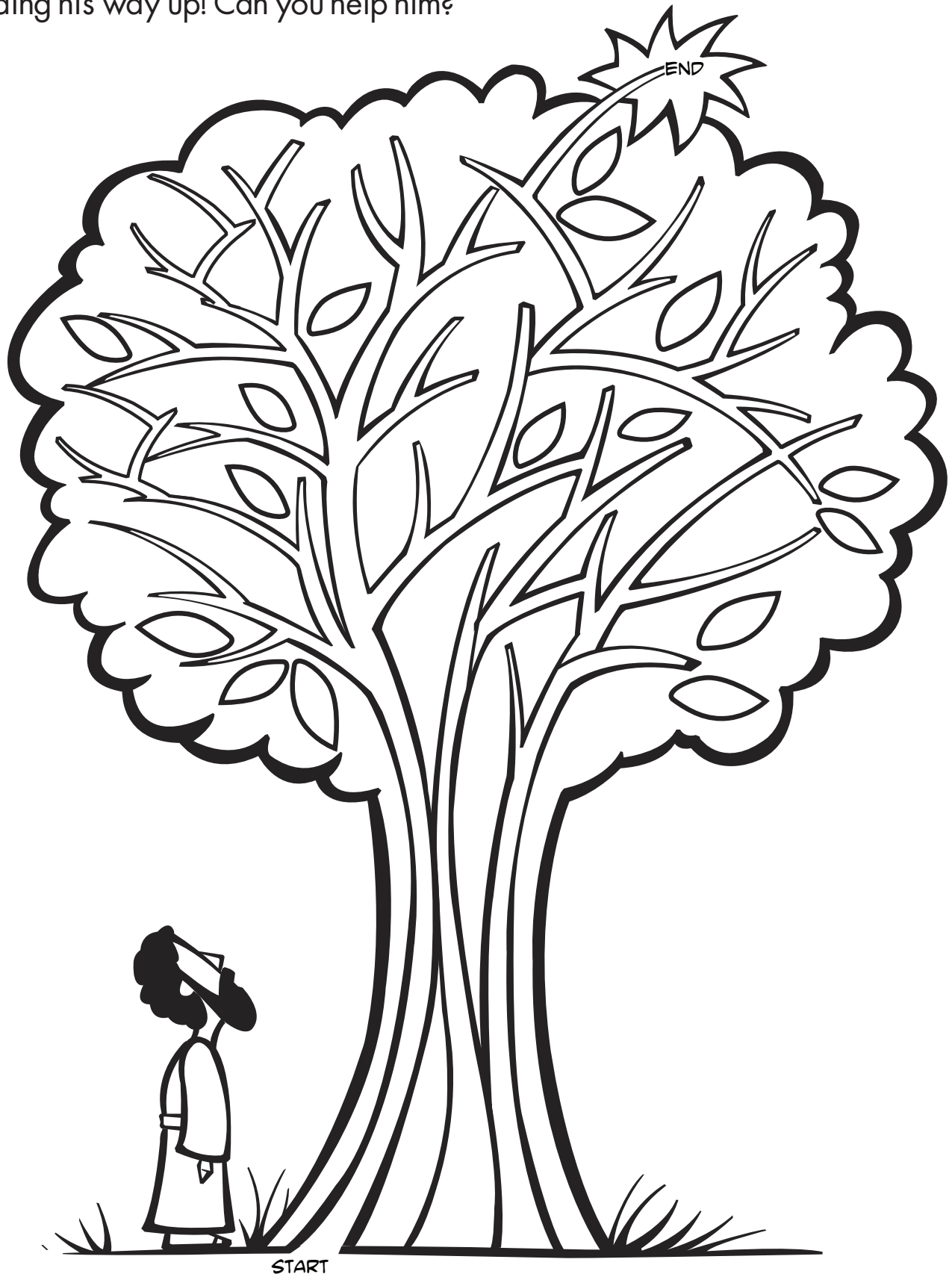
# The Big Z Giveaway

Jesus wants Zacchaeus to share his stuff! Can you help? Circle any things that Zacchaeus has two of. He can give those away! When you are finished, count how many "extra" things Zacchaeus had that he didn't need!



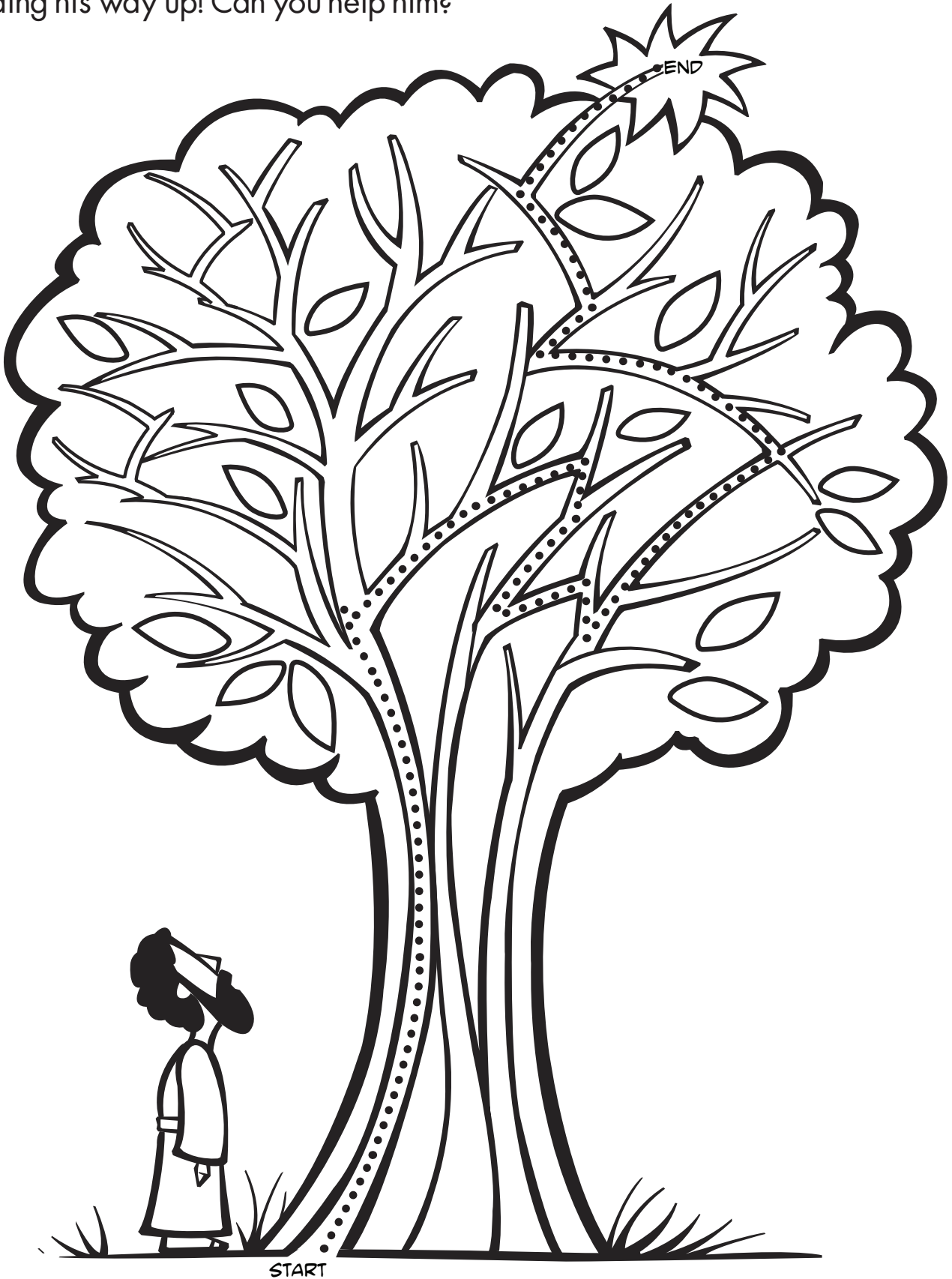
# Careful Climbing

Zacchaeus is trying to climb the tree to see Jesus, but is having trouble finding his way up! Can you help him?



# Careful Climbing Solution

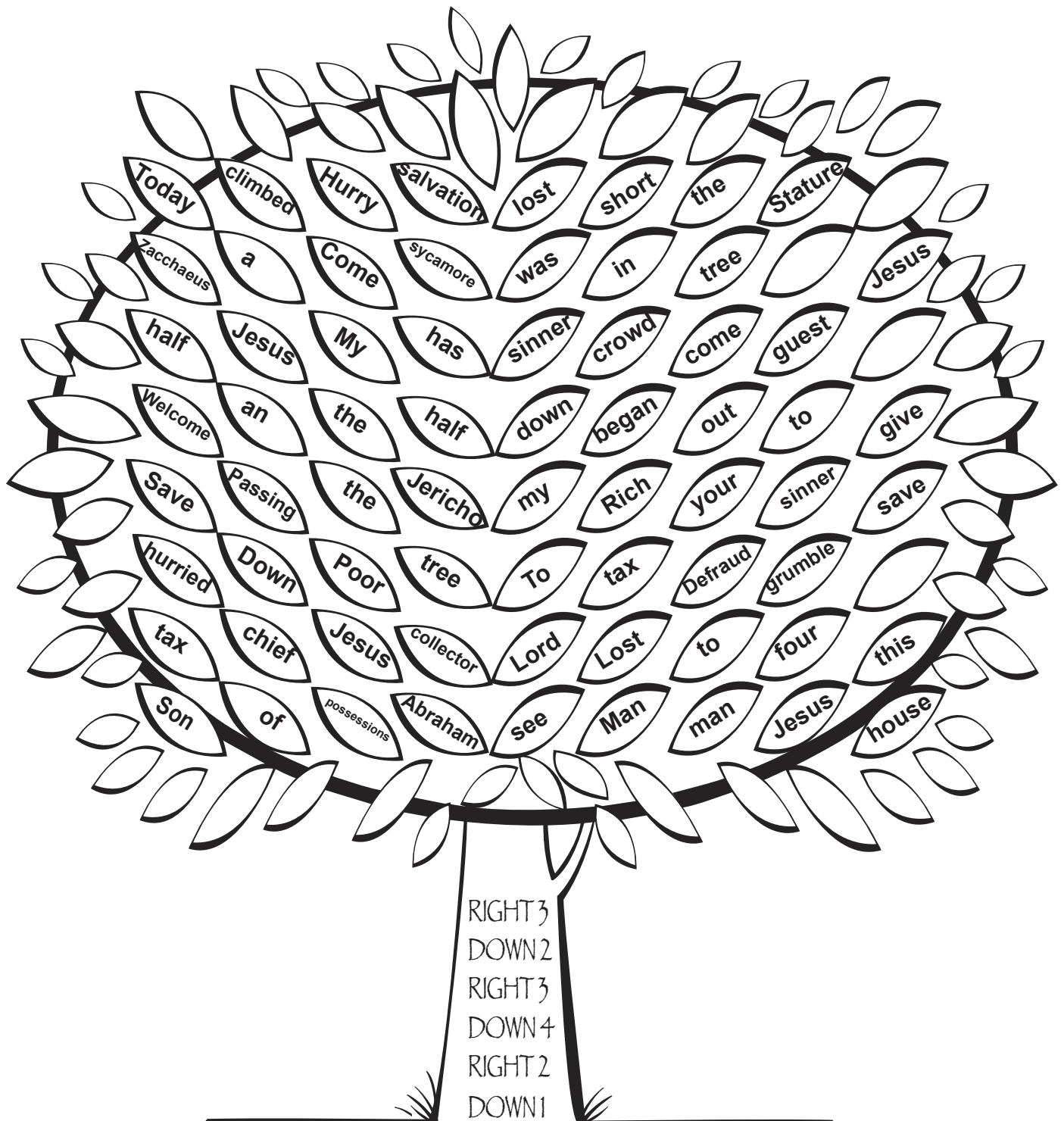
Zacchaeus is trying to climb the tree to see Jesus, but is having trouble finding his way up! Can you help him?



# Treetop Message

While others grumbled about Zacchaeus, Jesus had a powerful message! Can you find it in these leaves? Start with the word *Today*, then follow the directions in the trunk of the tree to discover what Jesus said.

Extra challenge: Use the words to make up another message. Then create new directions so someone else can find it.

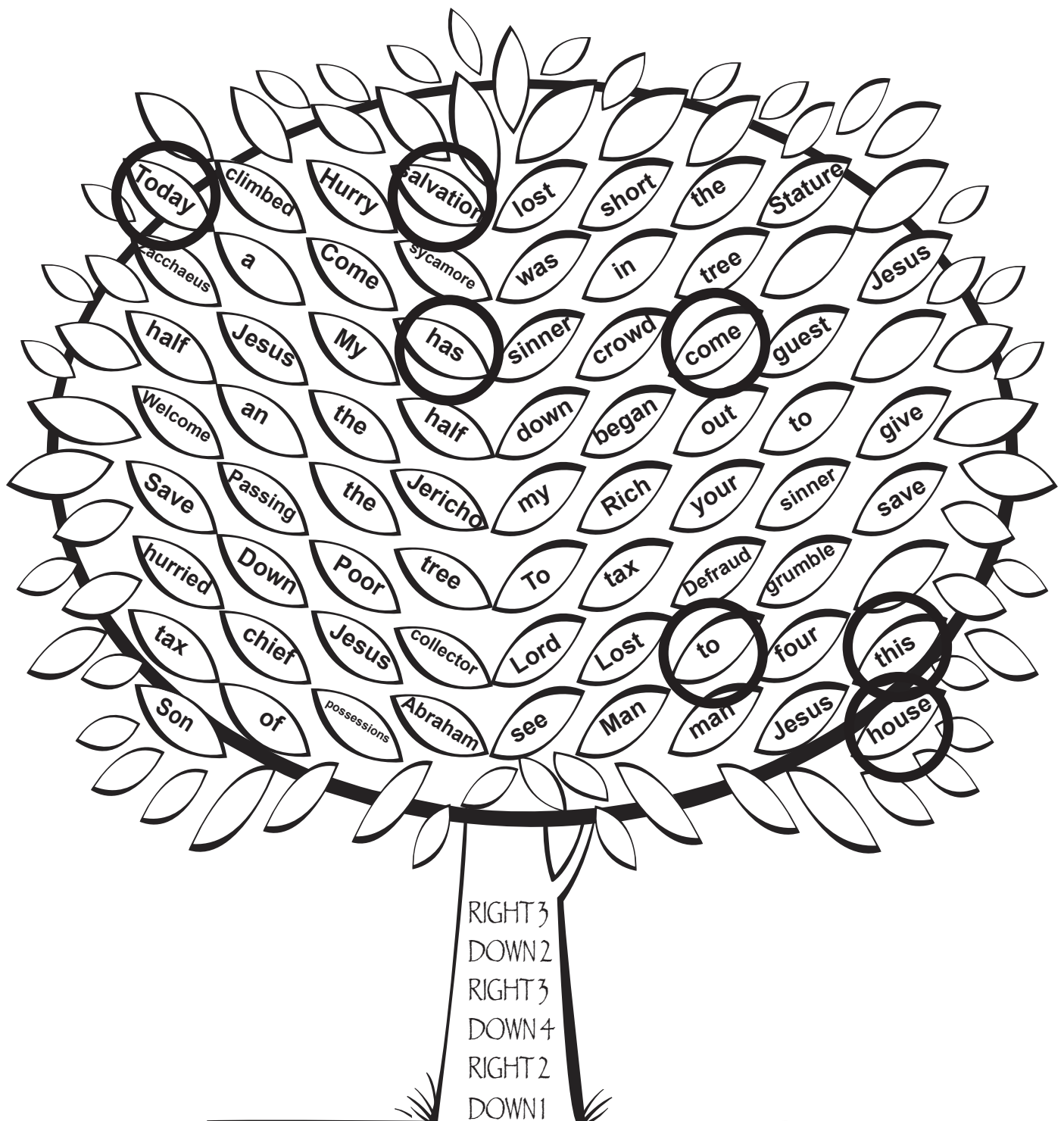


RIGHT 3  
 DOWN 2  
 RIGHT 3  
 DOWN 4  
 RIGHT 2  
 DOWN 1

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## **Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man Song**

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he.

He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see.

And when the Savior passed that way He looked up in the tree. And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down! For I'm going to your house today! For I'm going to your house today!'

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, But a happy man was he, For he had seen the Lord that day And a happy man was he; And a very happy man was he.