

# Jesus Story: Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

The story of Zacchaeus: Search and rescue...

This story tells what happens when someone encounters Jesus. Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector, unpopular amongst the Jewish people because he takes cash from the people to give to the Romans. But as a result he is really wealthy. He therefore seriously loves money – so much that he doesn't mind being hated as a result. But once he meets Jesus he gives half of everything he owns away AND four times what he has cheated anyone. And Jesus says, 'Salvation has come to this house.'

## Read Luke 19:1-10

### Spend some time chatting through the following questions:

- What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus? What do you notice about the way Jesus speaks to Zacchaeus? How might you have felt if you were Zacchaeus?
- Why do you think the people are 'grumbling' in verse 7? What have they failed to understand about Jesus?
- Why is it significant that Jesus goes to Zacchaeus' house and eats with him? Does this mean more than if they'd just had a chat by the side of the road?
- What do you think Jesus might have said to Zacchaeus whilst they ate?
- Which did Jesus do first – love Zacchaeus or seek to challenge and change him?
- What does this teach us about the way we should love others?

We will never know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus when he stayed with him, but we know that Zacchaeus changed radically after his encounter. Jesus showed great love to Zacchaeus despite the fact everyone else despised him and probably saw him as 'irredeemable'.

No matter how far our mates seem from Jesus he can find them. He longs for them to experience his love and he gives us the opportunity to show them that love.

The story of Zacchaeus finishes with Jesus saying he had come to 'seek and save the lost'. No matter how lost we, or our mates are, Jesus is already on the case to find them and change their lives. Our job is to look for what Jesus is already doing and join in.