

Making a new start



Sign of the Cross. Let's sing. (See p. 170.)

quietly by yourselves



Have you ever heard anyone say, 'I don't care'?
Sometimes they say it when they have done something wrong or when they have fallen out of friends with someone.

Sometimes they mean it, sometimes they don't.

when each child has had time to think



Have you ever heard it said?
Do people sometimes change their minds?
Why do they change their minds and begin to care?



This week we hear that Jesus met a man who cheated people and the man didn't seem to care. Listen to see if he changes his mind.

welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)

GOSPEL

all stand (adapted from Luke 19:1-10)

One day, Jesus went to Jericho.
Now a man lived there called Zacchaeus and he was very rich, because he collected money for the Romans.
This man was very keen to see what Jesus looked like, but he was only little, and he couldn't see anything with all the people there.

So he ran on in front, and climbed up a sycamore tree just to see Jesus when he went past.

But Jesus saw him up the tree and said, "Come down, I want to stay in your house today."

So Zacchaeus climbed down as quickly as he could, and took him home.

Everyone else complained and said, "He's a bad man, Jesus shouldn't have gone there."

But Zacchaeus said "Look Jesus, I'm going to give half of everything I've got to the poor.

And if I've cheated anyone I'll give him back four times as much as I took."

Taken from *Listen* by A. J. McCallen

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

all sit (some suggestions)



Do you think Jesus should have gone to stay at Zacchaeus' house?
Why?
In the beginning Zacchaeus doesn't seem to care that he has cheated people. Does he care at the end of the story?
What changed his mind?

Perhaps you could draw Zacchaeus: saying, 'I don't care'
saying, 'I do care'.

TODAY I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE

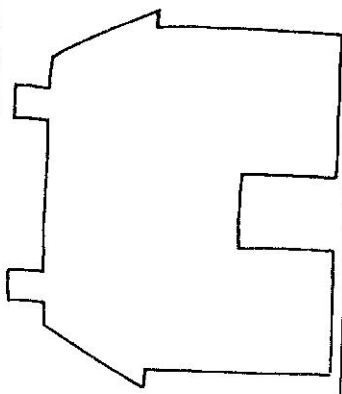
VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of crowds.
- > House shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Encourage the children to talk about their experiences of being in crowds, e.g. to watch a procession go past. What might they do to be able to see?

Today's story is about someone who was too little to see in a crowd.



WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Good News given to us by Luke.
Glory to you, Lord.

In Jericho lived a man called Zacchaeus, who was rich, but not very big. When Jesus came to Jericho Zacchaeus wanted to see him, but when he arrived the crowd was so big that Zacchaeus could not see a thing. So he ran ahead and climbed a tree. When Jesus reached the tree he

looked up.
"Zacchaeus", Jesus said, "come down. Hurry because today I must stay at your house."

Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus joyfully.
Some of the people began to grumble and complain.

"Why has Jesus gone to Zacchaeus' house? Everyone knows Zacchaeus is a sinner." But Zacchaeus said "Lord, I'm going to share half of what

I have with the poor. And if I've cheated anyone I'll pay them back four times over."
Jesus said
"Today, salvation has come to this house."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

What happened to Zacchaeus?

- at first he was curious about Jesus
- he saw Jesus
- he listened to Jesus
- he welcomed Jesus
- he let Jesus change his life.

Jesus calls to us.
What does he ask of us?

- to listen to him
- to welcome him
- to change our lives for Jesus.

In what ways can we change for Jesus?
Encourage the children to offer examples.

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children act out the story of Zacchaeus.
- > Give out the house cut-outs.
- > On them have the children write or draw:
either, how they will welcome Jesus in the coming week;

or, a way in which they will change their lives for Jesus.