



Children's Church of Garden Grove Seventh-day Adventist Church

# KIDS IN CHRIST

## A Little Man with a Big Problem

Have you ever been to a parade where you couldn't see over the person in front of you? It isn't much fun to go to a parade if you can't see the marching bands, the floats, or the fire trucks with their flashing lights, is it? When that happens, a periscope may be just what you need. The periscope has two mirrors in it so that you can look in the bottom and see out the top. It allows you to see over tall objects or even around a corner. Periscopes are used in submarines so that the people in the submarine can see what is happening above the water.

Today's Bible story is about a man who couldn't see above the crowd. Jesus had become quite known in many towns and cities because he had performed many miracles. He had raised Lazarus from the dead and had restored sight to a blind man named Bartimaeus, so when he entered the city of Jericho, the atmosphere was very much like a parade. People lined the streets hoping to get a glimpse of Jesus. One of the people in the crowd was a man who was very short. He was so short that he couldn't see above all the people in the crowd. His name was Zacchaeus. He didn't have a periscope to help him see above the crowd, but he really wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree and waited for Jesus to pass by.

As Jesus traveled through the streets of Jericho, he came to the place where Zacchaeus sat up in the tree. Jesus stopped, looked up in the tree, and he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down, for I am going to your house today."

The people in the crowd were shocked! Zacchaeus was one of the most disliked men in all of Jericho. Zacchaeus was a little man with a great big problem! He was a thief and a cheat! He was the chief tax collector and he had become very rich because he cheated people by collecting more taxes than they owed and keeping it for himself. The people could not believe that Jesus would go to the home of a man like that!



Zacchaeus knew that he had cheated people and when he and Jesus arrived at his house, he confessed and said that he was sorry for what he had done. He said to Jesus, "I am going to give half of all that I own to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Zacchaeus was sorry for what he had done and confessed his sin. Jesus forgave him and said, "Today salvation has come to this house." Yes, Zacchaeus was a man with a big problem -- sin! But he met Jesus and his life changed. It doesn't matter if you are short or tall, rich or poor, when you meet Jesus, He will change your life too!

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love and forgiveness. I am so happy to have the Bible and read stories about You. Amen

Luke 19:1-10

**“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”**

**LUKE 19:10**

