



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes

Heroes: Zacchaeus

The Tax Collector

Aim: To teach the boys how to share what they have with others

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho and he was really a very unpleasant little man. No one liked him and had very few friends.

Zacchaeus was a very wealthy man as he was a Tax Collector for the Romans but that did not mean he shared anything with anyone else. He kept his money all to himself; and he even took some extra tax from people and kept it for himself.

He had heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho and he was determined that he was going to see him – it might be that this Jesus could make him even richer. However, Zacchaeus was a very small man and with all the crowds about there was no way that he could see this Jesus person so he decided to run ahead a little way and climb a Sycamore tree so that he could get a sight of this man everyone was talking about.

Jesus arrived in Jericho and as he drew level with the tree where Zacchaeus was sitting he looked up and said 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today.' Zacchaeus was amazed, fancy this person wishing to see him and come to his house.

All the people who had been waiting to see Jesus were very cross when they saw whose house Jesus was going to, saying 'He has gone to the house of a sinner to have a meal with him. That is surely not right.'

However, inside the house Zacchaeus found himself saying (to his surprise) 'Look Lord, here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor; and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

The people outside were amazed at the change in Zacchaeus.

This story is ideally best done as a Mime or a drama. It is a good display piece and you could also do the Zacchaeus song to finish it off with the actions

Now Zacchaeus was a very little man
 And a very little man was he
 He climbed up to the sycamore tree
 For the Saviour he wanted to see
 For the Saviour he wanted to see
 And as the Saviour passed that way
 He looked up to the tree
 And said NOW Zacchaeus you come down!
 For I'm coming to your house for tea
 For I'm coming to your house for tea