

Day 4 – THE TRAIL OF CHANGE GOD (STILL) LOVES

Bible Passage Reference: Luke 19:1-10

Today I have something special to give you. (Teacher shows a crushed and torn paper heart) Does it look nice? No? Yeah, they are kind of crushed and torn. Well, I can give a different heart if you don't like this one. (Teacher shows a good, neatly cut paper heart) Do you like this one? Yes? Well, all of us want something that is good.



Similarly, we all like good people. No one likes someone who is bad. How we know if we are good or bad? It's pretty easy. Just answer these simple questions. Are you obeying your parents? Are you using good words? Are you telling the truth always? Are you taking your friend's things after asking? You not hurting or beating someone? Yes? Well, Congratulations kids!! You all have a good heart and you all are good.

Now, what if someone is not obeying, using bad words, lying to others, taking things without asking, hurting or beating someone? Do you think they have a good heart? No right? They have a bad heart; we call them a bad person.

Bible story

Now, I am going to tell you a story about a man who was very bad and when met Jesus he changed completely. He became a hero from a zero. This story is from the gospel of **Luke chapter 19, from verses 1 – 10.**

Once there lived a man in the city of Jericho whose job was to collect taxes from the people. He had a unique name "Zacchaeus", which meant pure or clean. But people called him a sinner, a bad man and a thief because he cheated people and collected more taxes. Why is Zacchaeus called bad kids? Yes, you are right. He cheated people and collected more money from people.



Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. So many people followed Jesus wherever He went. Everyone wanted to hear Him teach and wanted to see Him heal the sick. And Zacchaeus was also eager to see Jesus.

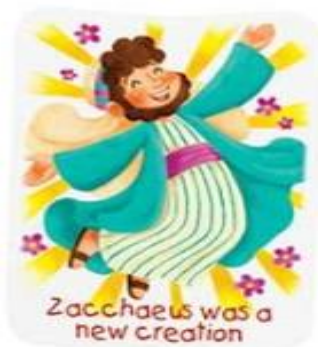
But there was only one problem. Zacchaeus was much smaller than everyone else in the crowd that surrounded Jesus. He tried standing on his tip toes, but that didn't work. He tried pushing his way to the front of the crowd, but that didn't work



Finally, Zacchaeus had an idea. Do you know what he did? He climbed up into the biggest tree he could find. It was a sycamore fig tree. Now Zacchaeus could see Jesus really well. Then he saw Jesus walking right by the tree. Then guess what happened next? Jesus stopped right by the tree. All of a sudden, Jesus looked right up at Zacchaeus and said, **"Zacchaeus, come down right now. I am coming to your house today."**

Zacchaeus could hardly believe what he was hearing. How did Jesus know his name? They had never met before. Kids how do you think Jesus knew his name? You are right, Jesus is our God and he knows our names. Zacchaeus hopped down with a big smile. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus said He wanted to stay at the little tax collector's house? Excited. Nervous. Confused. Zacchaeus was probably feeling all those emotions and more. We aren't told exactly what he thought. But we were told how the crowd felt about Jesus going to the home of a tax collector: They began to whisper among themselves. They were saying it was not right for Jesus to visit a bad tax collector's house.

Zacchaeus realized his mistakes and felt sorry for all the wrong doing and he wanted to become Jesus friend. So, he turned to Jesus and said, "Jesus, I promise to give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone in taxes, I will pay them back four times that amount." Zacchaeus repented of his sins right there, in front of Jesus and the crowd. Jesus was pleased and said **"Salvation comes to Zacchaeus's house today!"** So, we see Jesus saves Zacchaeus from his sin and Zacchaeus changes from a bad person to a good person.



Now you all know why Jesus had gone to Zacchaeus' house? Yes, He went to Zacchaeus' house to help him learn how to be good.

What did we learn about the Zacchaeus?

Zacchaeus was a bad man but we wanted Jesus in his life. To become a friend of Jesus he gave all his money to the poor.

How did God respond to the rich man?

God saved Zacchaeus from his sin and changed him to a good man

Application to our daily life

We learn that Jesus wants us to be good. When we have done something wrong or hurt someone or used a bad word, we need to say to Jesus “Lord Jesus, I am sorry that I have done something wrong or hurt someone or used a bad word. Please forgive me and come into my heart Lord Jesus.”

And when we say this Jesus comes into our heart, He will forgive us and changes us. We will become a good person with a good heart.



Memory Verse: "For I have come to look for and to seek those who are lost."(Luke 19:10)