

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure**

**Memory Work:**

**"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10**

**Aim Questions:**

1. Who was Zacchaeus, and what city did he live in? Why was he rich but not well liked by his countrymen?
2. How did Zacchaeus meet Jesus?
3. Why did the crowd grumble when Jesus went with Zacchaeus?
4. In what way was Zacchaeus lost?
5. What happened to show that Zacchaeus was a changed man?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said Zacchaeus was a "son of Abraham"?




**Hook:**



**Secret Tales (Discussion).** Ask the students to think of a secret they have or have been told. Ask if they have any secrets that they are keeping from God. Don't ask what it is. Play the song "God Knows About Everything." Lead into God knowing who Zacchaeus is and calling him by name to come down out of the Sycamore tree.



**Name Learning (Game).**  Have students write their middle names on slips of paper. Then draw names from a hat, and have students try to guess whose name it is. If they don't have a middle name, they can make one up.



**That Doesn't Fit! (Illustration).** Bring in some different size needles and different sizes of string or chord, and have the students try and thread the needles. This passage in the Bible literally means that it is impossible for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle, and that is how hard it is for a rich man to surrender his wealth for God.



**A Wee Little Man (Song Time).** Sing "Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man."

Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
A wee little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree  
For the Lord he wanted to see.  
And when the Savior passed that way  
He looked up in the tree.  
And He said,  
"Zacchaeus, you come down,

For I'm going to your house today."



## Book:

### Presentation Ideas -



**The Rich Young Ruler (Illustration/Overhead).** Luke 18:18 "A certain ruler asked Him, 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?'" **BLUK17.GF1.**



**Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Illustration/Overhead).** Luke 19:5 "When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'" **BLUK17.GF2.**

### Bible Adventure -

Do you ever feel that you are doing everything right and that everything is going right, too? You hear your Dad and Mom talking about the performance of their children, and you know that if your name is mentioned, it will be praises for whatever you do. But there may be a big difference in God's view between what we think we are doing right and what we actually are doing right.

In today's story there was a crowd of people listening to the Lord Jesus. In the crowd was a very rich young man (*place Illustration BLUK17.GF1*). We know him in the Bible as "**The Rich Young Ruler.**" You see boys and girls, in those times, if you were rich, they thought that God was so pleased with your performance that He blessed you with money and possessions. But that was not always true. Well this man went right up to the Lord Jesus and asked Him, "**Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?**" The Lord Jesus answered him by saying, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not lie, honor your father and mother.'" Jesus was telling him what he already knew. The rich young ruler was very proud and pleased to answer the Lord, "All of these I have kept since I was a boy." He had been a very good boy, doing everything right, obeying his parents, always telling the truth and never stealing anything. He was so proud to tell the Lord Jesus that he had been such a wonderful and obedient child. Boys and girls, the Bible calls this pride and it is a sin or being wrong, because there was only One that kept all the commandments and this man was talking to Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's this attitude in our hearts that keeps us from going to heaven. The Bible says, "All have sinned or done wrong and fallen short of the glory of God." That means we are ALL LOST and cannot go to heaven. What a problem!!!!

Well, the Bible says that when Jesus heard the man's answer, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. (*You see boys and girls, the rich young ruler was not perfect. There was something in his life that was not right.*) Everyone who was standing there listening assumed that, because this man was so rich, he must be blessed of God and already welcomed into His Kingdom. Jesus continued saying, "**Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow Me.**" When the rich young man heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. WOW, he had lots of riches, things, stuff and friends. He thought in his mind, I can't give all of that up, why that won't be fun at all. Remember his question to the Lord Jesus at the beginning of our story? He asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Now he said in his mind, "That's too hard for me to do. I guess I am turning away from eternal life with God." He must have walked away looking very sad because he did not want to give up all of his things. Again, the disciples who were watching were amazed because they thought his wealth meant he had already been blessed by God. But Jesus said, "**Indeed it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.**" And they responded to Him, "Who then can be saved?" And Jesus answered, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

You see, the Lord Jesus knew his thoughts, as He knows your thoughts. He knew that this "Rich Young Ruler" was not perfect. **His riches were the most important thing in the world to him.** Do you have something that is the most important thing to you, more important to you than God? Is there something in your life that is stopping you from asking Jesus to forgive you from your wrongs, but because of this thing, you will not do it? Could it be a friend, a bad habit, or your pride that says I am OK, God is pleased with me just as I am? Remember our "Rich Young Ruler"? He thought that he had done everything right, also. But had he? The Bible says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Do not wait. Ask Him today to come and forgive you from your wrongs and fill you with His Spirit. "But to as many as ask Him, to them He gives the power to become the sons of God,

even to those who believe on His name.” The Rich Young Ruler's riches and pride kept him from heaven and eternity of peace with God. How very sad!

Let's look now at another very rich man, who, well, let's just listen to our story! The Bible says that Jesus entered a town by the name of Jericho. The news of His coming had reached the ears of a man who was very curious about seeing the Lord Jesus. Yes, this man was rich, but he was different from the “Rich Young Ruler.” He had not received his money from his parents; he had received his money by cheating people. **His job was to collect taxes from the people.** Instead of just making a small profit off the collection, he made a huge profit by charging a lot more than he should. In his town, being a tax collector was bad enough; but he was also a cheating collector. All of the people in Jericho hated this man. In fact, they called him “the sinner.” He was never invited to dinner, and when he walked down the street everyone sneered at him. He knew he did not do the right thing, and he felt very bad about his actions. He was sure different from the “Rich Young Ruler.” He had heard about the Lord Jesus and His miracles, the healing of people and His love for people. He thought, I just want to see this man named “Jesus.”

The people standing around thought that this man was the most unlikely person to enter the Kingdom of God. The Bible says that when Jesus came into town, this man could not see Jesus because of the crowd, and because he was a very short man. Can anyone guess what his name is? Yes, you are right, his name is Zacchaeus (*place Illustration BLUK17.GF2*). **“Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.”** Can you see the crowd following Jesus and then, when Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” WOW! The Lord Jesus wants to go to his house, the house of that thief, Zacchaeus. Boys and girls, Zacchaeus, flew down that tree. The Bible says, “He came down at once and welcomed Him gladly.” The Lord Jesus must have spoken to Zacchaeus about the needs and wrongs in his life. The Bible says that later on, maybe after they'd finished eating, Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! **Here and now (right now, not later) I give half of my possessions to the poor,** and if I have cheated anybody out of any thing, I will pay back four times the amount.” Zacchaeus was saying that **if he had taken one sheep from someone, he would give back four sheep in its place.**

Zacchaeus was a new man, and his actions showed his new thoughts. Jesus says, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Zacchaeus had not walked away sad, he was rejoicing, because he was giving up the very thing that had kept him from loving God. Do you want to be a Zacchaeus and ask the Lord Jesus right now to forgive you for all that you have done? Let's bow our heads and quietly ask God to forgive. If the Lord Jesus lives in your life, maybe you want to ask Him to help you to give up that thing that is keeping you from obeying God.




### Look:



**Zacchaeus/Rich Young Ruler (Worksheet).** Compare the two stories of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30) and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). Have students cut out the facts on **BLUK17.GF3 Pg. 2** and glue them under the correct person on **BLUK17.GF3 Pg. 1**.



**How Hard Is It? (Worksheet).**  Cut the pictures from the bottom of **BLUK17.GF4**, and glue on the verses to complete the worksheet.



**Up a Tree (Crossword Puzzle).** Answers for **BLUK17.GF5**.

**ACROSS:** 2) wealthy 4) impossible 6) possessions 8) everything 9) crowd 11) Jericho  
13) house 15) life 16) minas

**DOWN:** 1) tax collector 3) ten 5) sinner 7) sycamore 10) Jesus 12) cloth 15) lost



**The Parable of the Ten Minas (Worksheet).** (*Teachers, this is a section we didn't have time to cover today. Use this for an overtime challenge.*) Luke 19:11-27, Jesus often spoke in parables to illustrate a truth. Connect what Jesus spoke about in this parable in the 1<sup>st</sup> column to what He was referring in the 2nd column, **BLUK17.GF6**.

**Give It Back! (Worksheet).** When Jesus told the rich young ruler to give everything he had to the poor, the young man went away sad. But when Zacchaeus decided to follow Jesus, he joyfully promised: "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." Use this worksheet to imagine how much it might have cost him, **BLUK17.GF7**.

**It's Impossible! (Worksheet).** Fill in the blanks for Luke 18:24-27, **BLUK17.GF8**.

**Where Are They Now? (Worksheet).** Match the clues with the correct people, **BLUK17.GF9**.  
**DEBRIEF:** What was the attitude of their hearts? From what we know of them, which ones are now in heaven?

**Journey With Jesus (Journal).** Make an entry in your journal. If you had been one of Jesus' disciples, you might have written something like this:

*As we were passing through Jericho, Jesus looked up into a tree and began talking. We looked up to see who (or what) He was talking to, and there was a full-grown man up there! Full-grown, yes, but when he came down, we could see that he was very short. Jesus invited Himself over to the man's house who, we discovered, was a very wealthy tax-collector named Zacchaeus. He was a hated sinner among the people, but after he met Jesus, this man was changed. He said he would give half of all he had to the poor and pay back anyone he had cheated - four times as much. I remember Jesus telling another rich young man that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom. I guess Zacchaeus is living proof that nothing is impossible with God!*



### Took:

**Too Short (Discussion).** Ask the students if they have ever been to a parade, concert or to see someone famous where there was a large group of people all trying to see the same thing. Could they see? How did they feel? They probably felt much like Zacchaeus. How would they have felt if the famous person they were trying to see called out to them by name?

**Entertaining Jesus (Discussion).** The Bible doesn't tell us what kind of discussion Jesus and Zacchaeus had at Zacchaeus' house. All we know is that Zacchaeus was a changed man. What do you think they talked about? What do you think Jesus said to Zacchaeus? (*Brainstorm on the board what things the students thought they talked about.*) Do you suppose Jesus talked about man's needs and what He could do for Zacchaeus? What would that be? What can Jesus do for you?

**Picture Review (Discussion).** Review Lesson Fourteen using pictures of the Lost Coin, **BLUK14.GF4**; the Lost Sheep, **BLUK14.GF2**; and the Lost Son, **BLUK14.GF7**.

**I Have To Give That Up? (Discussion).** Read verses Luke 18:29 & 30. A lot of time we talk about putting our families first. Jesus is saying that we should love Him so much that we are even willing to give up our families for Him. Discuss what other things you might add to the list that might be difficult for you to give up. Jesus mentioned several in those verses.

**Impossibilities (Worksheet).** Have students write down one list of things that man cannot do (*forgive our own sins, jump to the moon, etc.*) and another list of things that God cannot do (*lie, not love us, etc.*), **BLUK17.GF10**.

# The Rich Young Ruler



# Zacchaeus the Tax Collector



Zacchaeus and the rich young ruler both spoke with Jesus about the Kingdom of God. Cut out the facts on page 2, and glue them under the correct person.

Zacchaeus

Rich Young Ruler



Zacchaeus	Rich Young Ruler

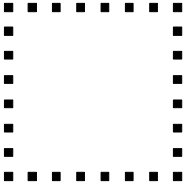
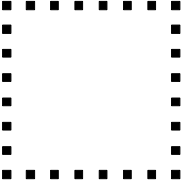
Cut out each fact and glue under the correct person on page 1.

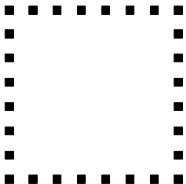
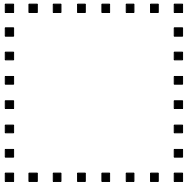
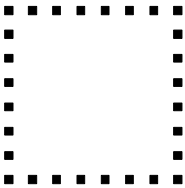
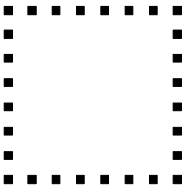
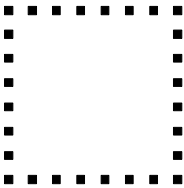
Rich in Wealth	Well liked by the people
Loved his possessions more than Jesus	Went away from Jesus very sad
Rejoiced with Jesus	Gave away half his possessions and repaid those he cheated
Despised by people	Loved Jesus more than possessions
Kept his possessions	Wealthy because of cheating people

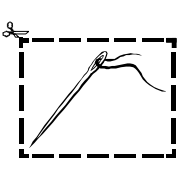
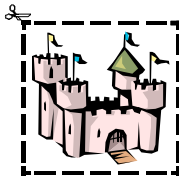
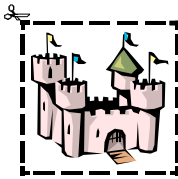
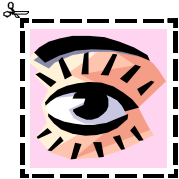
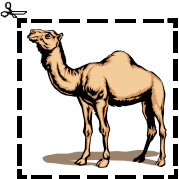
# HOW HARD IS IT?

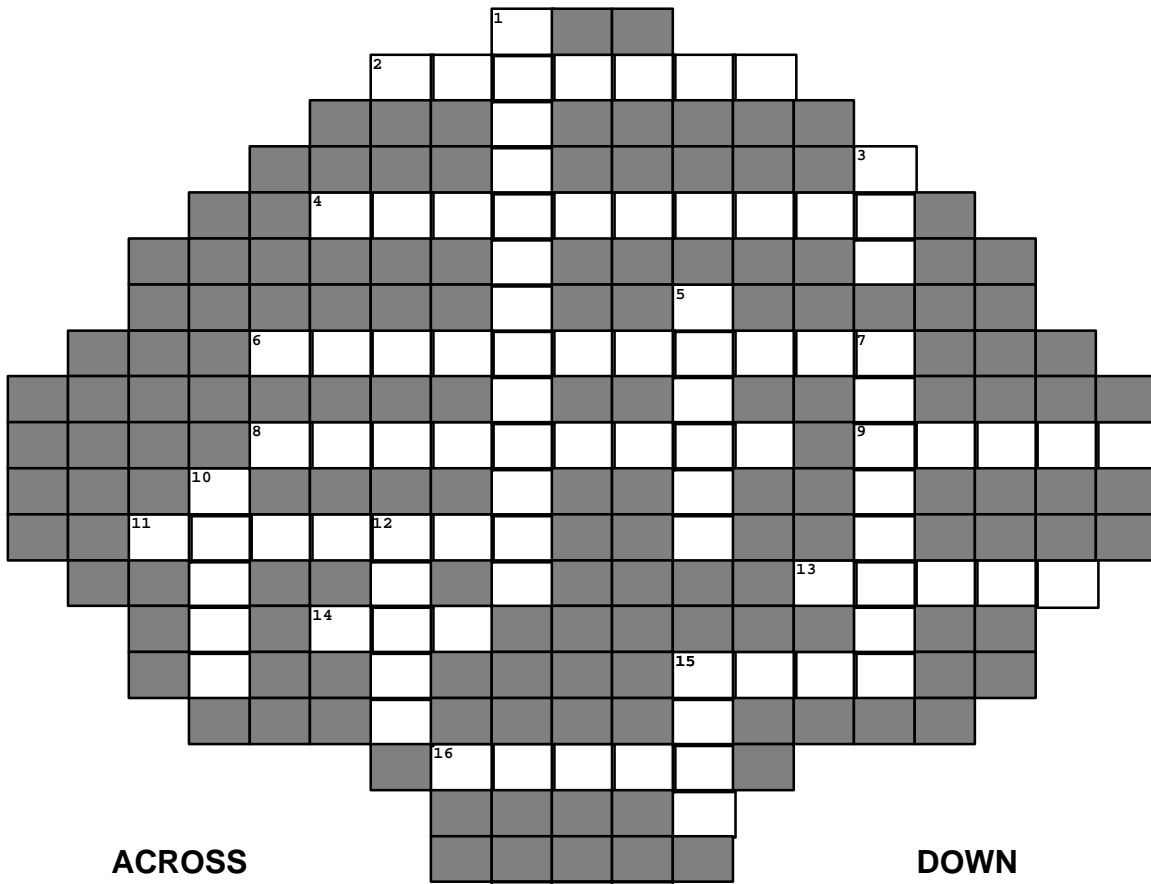
Cut the pictures from the bottom of the page, and glue on the verses to complete.

Luke 18:24 & 25

Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the  to enter the  of God!

Indeed, it is easier for a  to go through the  of a  than for a  man to enter the  of God.”





**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

2. Zacchaeus and the ruler were very \_\_\_\_\_. 18:23 & 19:2
4. Jesus replied, "What is \_\_\_\_\_ with men is possible with God." 19:27
6. Zacchaeus told the Lord he would give half of these to the poor. 19:8
8. Jesus told the ruler that he needed to sell \_\_\_\_\_. 18:22
9. Zacchaeus could not see Jesus because of this. 19:3
11. Jesus saw Zacchaeus here. 19:1
13. Jesus told Zacchaeus He had to stay at His \_\_\_\_\_. 19:5
14. "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good - except \_\_\_\_\_ alone." 18:19
15. The ruler wanted to have eternal \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What did the man of noble birth give to the servants? 19:3

1. What Zacchaeus did for a living. 19:2
3. Total number of minas the man gave to the servants. 19:13
5. Jesus had gone to be a guest of a \_\_\_\_\_. 19:7
7. The kind of tree Zacchaeus climbed. 19:4
10. Zacchaeus wanted to see whom? 19:3
12. The third servant had kept his mina in a piece of \_\_\_\_\_. 19:20
15. Jesus came to seek and save what was \_\_\_\_\_. 19:10

**UP A TREE**

# The Parable of the Ten Minas

Read Luke 19:11-27

Jesus often spoke in parables. A parable was a story Jesus told to illustrate a truth. The Parable of the Ten Minas illustrates a truth about God's Kingdom. Below are two columns. The first column is what Jesus said in His parable. The second column is what Jesus was referring to in the parable.

Draw a line from the first column to the correct reference in the second column.

Man of noble birth

Did not share God's Word

Distant country

Those who will perish

Servants

The Lord Jesus Christ

Minas

Believers

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> servants

God's Word (Gospel)

3<sup>rd</sup> servant

Earth

To everyone who has, more will  
be given

Non-believers

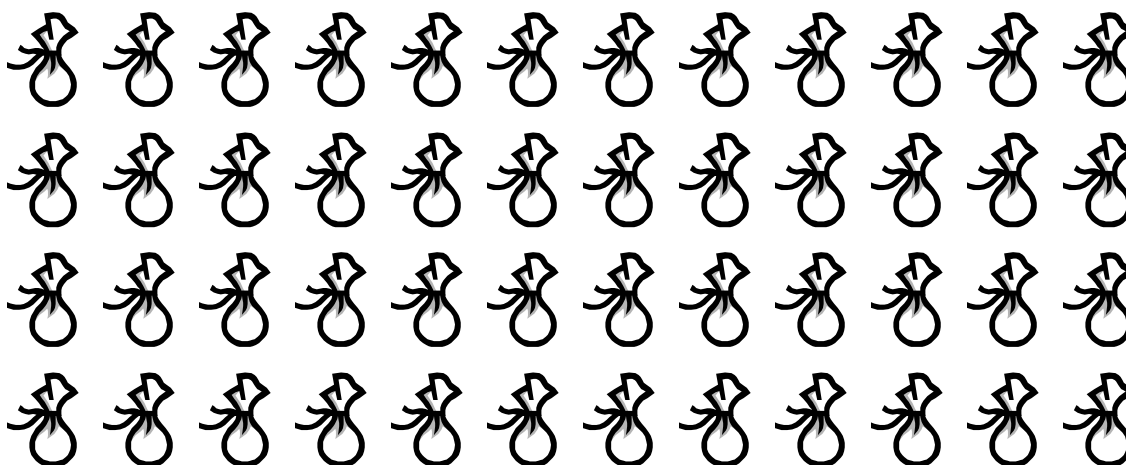
One who has nothing, even what  
he has will be taken away

Those who will have eternal life in  
God's Kingdom

## Give It Back!

When Jesus told the rich young ruler to give everything he had to the poor, the young man went away sad. But when Zacchaeus decided to follow Jesus, he joyfully promised: “**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.**” Use this worksheet to imagine how much it **might** have cost him.

Imagine that Zacchaeus had 48 bags of money before he met Jesus.



First, cross out the money he gave to the poor.

Now imagine that Zacchaeus had cheated **Sam** out of **one** bag of money, **Sarah** out of **two** bags, and **Jacob** out of **three**. Cross out 4 times these amounts from Zacchaeus' money.

**Sam**



**Sarah**



**Jacob**



**It's**

**Impossible**

Luke 18:24-27

Jesus looked at him  
and said, How hard it is  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_! Indeed, it is  
easier for a \_\_\_\_\_ to go through the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ than for a \_\_\_\_\_  
man to enter the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who heard this asked, Who then can be saved?  
Jesus replied, What is \_\_\_\_\_ with men  
is \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

# Where Are They Now?

## Review Worksheet



Rich Young Ruler



1 leper



Pharisees

Match the clues with the correct people.

◆ Loved Jesus more than possessions ◆

◆ Came back, praising God in a loud voice ◆

◆ As they went they were healed ◆

◆ He still lacked one thing ◆

◆ Loved money and sneered at Jesus ◆



Zacchaeus



9 lepers

# !! I m p o s s i b i l i t i e s !!

Write down lists of impossibilities for  
God & man.

Impossible for man	Impossible for God
man cannot fly ✎	God cannot lie ✎