

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### THE GOOD NEWS SHARED WITH ZACCHAEUS

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#### Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus

Let's look at how Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus – where others would have turned away. Whom do we turn away from today? How can we be a bit more like Jesus at these times?

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

### Start It

Play a game of 'Who is ...?'. Read the clues and see if the children can guess which pair of unlikely friends you are describing.

**Screen share:** <https://ohmy.disney.com/movies/2015/11/09/12-most-inspirational-disney-friendships/> You may wish to show images of the friends when they've been identified.

 **Say:** Disney films are full of friendships that shouldn't work, but they do!

See if you can name the friendships from these well-known Disney films.

1. Which meerkat, who is wise-cracking and easy-going, is friends with a gluttonous and happy-go-lucky warthog?  
**Timon and Pumbaa, *The Lion King***
2. Which regal blue tang fish, who is ditzy, cheerful and memory-impaired, is friends with an overprotective, neurotic and pessimistic clownfish?  
**Dory and Marlin, *Finding Nemo***
3. Which young girl, who is spirited, eccentric and sensitive, is friends with a destructive and impulsive alien?  
**Lilo and Stitch, *Lilo and Stitch***
4. Which candlestick, who is kind-hearted, charming and rebellious, is friends with a pompous, bossy and controlling clock?  
**Lumière and Cogsworth, *Beauty and the Beast***
5. Which young woman, who is determined yet hesitant, creative and curious, is friends with a feisty, supportive and loyal chameleon?  
**Rapunzel and Pascal, *Tangled***
6. Which reindeer, who is loyal, playful and brave – though easily distracted – is friends with a young man who was a bit of a loner, selfless, sensitive and protective?  
**Sven and Kristoff, *Frozen***
7. Which young man, who is optimistic, charming and quick-thinking, is friends with a magical spirit full of energy and cheerfulness and a mischievous and greedy monkey?  
**Aladdin, Genie, and Abu, *Aladdin***
8. Which spaceman, who is brave and courageous, is friends with a determined and passionate cowboy?  
**Buzz and Woody, *Toy Story***

9. Which tropical fish, who is loyal yet anxious, is friends with a headstrong and adventurous mermaid?  
**Flounder and Ariel, *The Little Mermaid***
10. Which pirate, who is charismatic but infamous, is friends with a brave, adventurous former blacksmith – turned pirate?  
**Jack Sparrow and Will Turner, *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl***
11. Which bear, who is kind, gentle and honey-obsessed, is friends with a timid and insecure little pig?  
**Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, *Winnie the Pooh***
12. Which dragon, who is fast-talking and overconfident, is friends with a determined and protective young woman?  
**Mushu and Mulan, *Mulan***
- 🗣️ **Say:** Jesus had a habit of making friends with people who were ignored or disliked. In today's story, Jesus started another unlikely friendship.

## Sing It

This week's song tells us the story of Zacchaeus. Listen to the song through once so that the children can hear the story. Then play it through again and ask the children to join in.

'Stories' by Go Fish Kids Music (1 min 23 secs)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I\\_LypuDbTBs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_LypuDbTBs)

## Tell It

### Video

**Screen share:** *God's Story: Zacchaeus* by Crossroads Kids' Club (3 mins 11 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe7dTNID6h8>

🗣️ **Say:** The story of Zacchaeus is found in the book of Luke in the New Testament of the Bible.

Read Luke 19:1-2 (*ICB*)

**Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. In Jericho there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a wealthy, very important tax collector.**

🗣️ **Say:** Even today, everyone has to pay taxes to help keep our roads safe, keep our hospitals running and look after those who need help. Tax collectors today have to follow strict rules and would get into a lot of trouble if they tried to take extra money.

### Ask:

- ➔ What was different about tax collectors at the time of Jesus?
- ➔ Why do you think the people possibly disliked Zacchaeus so much?
- ➔ Do you understand why they may have felt that way? If so, why?

**Screenshare:** Luke 19:3-7 (*ICB*)

**He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was too short to see above the crowd. He ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come. He climbed a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree. He said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."**

**Zacchaeus came down quickly. He was pleased to have Jesus in his house. All the people saw this and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!"**

**Ask:**

- Why do you think Zacchaeus was so desperate to see Jesus?
- How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus spotted him in the tree?
- What kind of things do you think the crowd may have said to each other when Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus's house?
- How would you have felt if you were there?

**Screenshare:** Luke 19:8-10 (ICB)

**But Zacchaeus said to the Lord, 'I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!'**

**Jesus said, 'Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them.'**

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus took the time get to know Zacchaeus and become his friend.

**Ask:**

- How did meeting Jesus change Zacchaeus?
- What did Zacchaeus promise to do?
- In verse 9 Jesus says, 'Salvation has come to this house today.' What do you think he meant?

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus saved Zacchaeus from the wrong choices he was making and turned his life around. Jesus can do the same for anyone who makes poor choices, even us. Sometimes we can focus on the mistakes of other people, but Jesus makes it clear that we all mess up, and he is here to save all of us.

## Action It

🗨️ **Say:** Jesus asks us to be like him and show kindness to those that aren't treated well by others. This can sometimes be difficult when we don't like what the other person is doing. Jesus showed Zacchaeus love and kindness. As a result, Zacchaeus did his best to put things right with the people – and they in turn were encouraged to accept him.

🗨️ **Say:** We're going to spend some time thinking about the people that we meet throughout the week.

- Close your eyes and imagine yourself in your classroom.
- In your imagination, have a look around the room at all of the children.
- Is there anyone that you think Jesus is asking you to be a good friend to?
- What help would you need from Jesus in order to be a good friend to that person?

Ask the children to open their eyes. Without mentioning names, ask the children to describe the person who came to mind.

**Ask:**

- Why do you think Jesus wants you to be a good friend to this person?
- Now that you have heard the story of Zacchaeus, do you see that person differently?
- How do you think Jesus sees them?

Play the song 'You've got a friend in me' from the film Toy Story. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hG-2tQtdIE>

or this live version – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRBIMTK73wY>

While the song is playing, ask the children to jot down the initials of the person they have discussed. They could also write down three ways they are going to try and be a better friend to that person over the coming weeks.

## Pray It

### **Screenshare:**

Dear Jesus,

Help me to be more like you. You always took the time to notice those whom others ignored. Help me to remember that we all make mistakes, and not to be so hard on other people when they make them. Thank you for taking the time to notice Zacchaeus and show us how to love people the way God wants us to. I ask for your strength and patience to be the kind of friend you want me to be.

AMEN

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.