LESSON 24

UP IN A TREE TO SEE JESUS



Aim: **To show the children that the Lord Jesus came to save lost sinners and change them.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 19:1–10**

Memory Verse: **John 1:1–14**
Review the complete passage.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

We often think that rich people are always happy because they can't have any worries. Sadly, this is not true. Often, they are not popular. Some people like the rich for their money and not for themselves, or they are very jealous of them. Jesus met a rich man who was unhappy, and changed his life.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Zacchaeus was a rich man, but most people hated him. He was a tax collector who had become rich by making other people poorer (Lk 19:1–2). **Explain to the class that in those days tax collectors did not get a salary from the government. They could collect as much money from the people as they wanted, as long as they paid a certain amount over to the government. The difference between what they collected and what they paid over was their "salary". Some tax collectors made the people pay so much tax that they could not survive on what they had left.**
2. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus very much. Unfortunately he was short and there was a big crowd. So he climbed up a tree. **Show Picture 24.** He must have almost fallen out of the tree in surprise when Jesus spoke to him, calling him by his name (19:3–5)!
3. The people were surprised and angry. Zacchaeus was a thief and Jesus was actually going to visit him as if they were friends! Zacchaeus, however, was filled with joy (29:6–7).
4. Meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus (29:8). Jesus told everybody that he had come to this world to meet people like Zacchaeus, who realised they were in the wrong and wanted to change (19:9–10).

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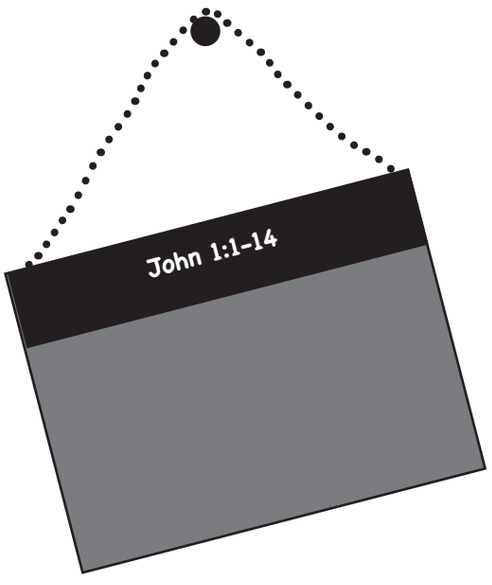
Our Response to the Story

The first story in this book was about Jesus coming to earth as a baby in order to grow up and live among us. Jesus came to seek and save all who are lost from God. He came as our Saviour. **Read John 3:16 to the class.**

A brief personal testimony from you – of how you met Jesus and changed your life – would be an appropriate end to this set of lessons.

Review the Memory Verses Again

Let the whole class recite the passage together: John 1:1–14.



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