

Zacchaeus

5+ lesson pack



Introduction

In Luke 19:1-10, Jesus changed the life of a tax collector called Zacchaeus. This passage reminds us, no matter what we've done, Jesus cares for us and can change us.

Key Points:

- Jesus knows your name and cares for you.
- God can save anyone.
- Repentance means changing.

Lesson Guide

In Jesus' time, many people hated tax collectors like Zacchaeus. They were often dishonest. Give your child ten small pieces of candy or fruit such as grape halves. Explain that the law says you need to tax them one out of every ten pieces. Then take five pieces. Ask them if they are angry that you took more than you should. Many people were angry at Zacchaeus for taking more taxes than he should. He was not honest.

Ask your child about a time they tried to see something but couldn't because they were too short, or it was too crowded. Maybe they asked you to pick them up and put them on your shoulders. Share how Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus and the people blocked his view. Speak about how some things hinder us from seeing Jesus clearly. (e.g. unhelpful tv shows, games, or people.)

Speak about someone you would like to invite to your house for food. It could be someone famous, or someone you know. Discuss why you would invite that person. Focus on that you like them and think they are good.

Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was a sinner. He knew he was dishonest, but Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house anyway. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Using toys, cards, or numbers, place some on the table in front of your child. These objects need to be some form of a group so that the child will know some are missing. Tell them to find all the objects. Talk about how the ones on the table do not need to be found. The ones that need finding are the ones that are lost.

Explain that repentance means changing from what is wrong to do what is right. What did Zacchaeus do with all the money he had stolen? He gave it back along with more. Take the pieces of candy or fruit from the beginning of the lesson and return them to the child along with extras. If Jesus changes our hearts, we need to show this change to others by doing right.

Repentance is doing the opposite of what we did before. Play a game of opposites by saying a word and asking your child to say the opposite. For instance, night and day or happy and sad. You may also do this by drawing simple pictures and allowing your child to draw the opposite. Such as a smiling face or a frowning face.

Talk about ways that we can show repentance. If we always disobeyed our parents, what would repentance be? Would we change by still disobeying or by obeying? If a child struggled with telling the truth, would repentance involve lying or honesty? You may continue to give examples and include some of the things with which your child may struggle.

Pray and thank God that you can be saved through Jesus. Ask Jesus to help us repent and serve Him.

Zacchaeus

One day, Jesus was making his way through the town of Jericho.

Lots of people had gathered in the street to see Jesus.

There was a man named Zacchaeus who lived in Jericho.

He was the chief tax collector in the region and had become very rich.

He used to overcharge people for their taxes and keep the extra money for himself. Nobody liked Zacchaeus.

When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was visiting his town, he wanted to see Jesus.



But when he went into the street, he was too short to see over the crowd. Zacchaeus had an idea.



He ran ahead as fast as he could. He found a sycamore-fig tree beside the road and climbed into it.

Now he could see easily over the crowd. He waited for Jesus to pass by.

When Jesus came near the tree, Zacchaeus had a big surprise.

Jesus stopped, looked up in the tree, and called Zacchaeus by name, "Zacchaeus!" Jesus said. "Come down quickly! Today, I must be a guest in your home."



Zacchaeus couldn't believe it. He quickly climbed down from the tree and took Jesus to his house. He was so excited and happy to receive Jesus as his guest.

However, the other people in crowd were not at all happy. They complained, "Look, Jesus has gone to be the guest of that notorious sinner."

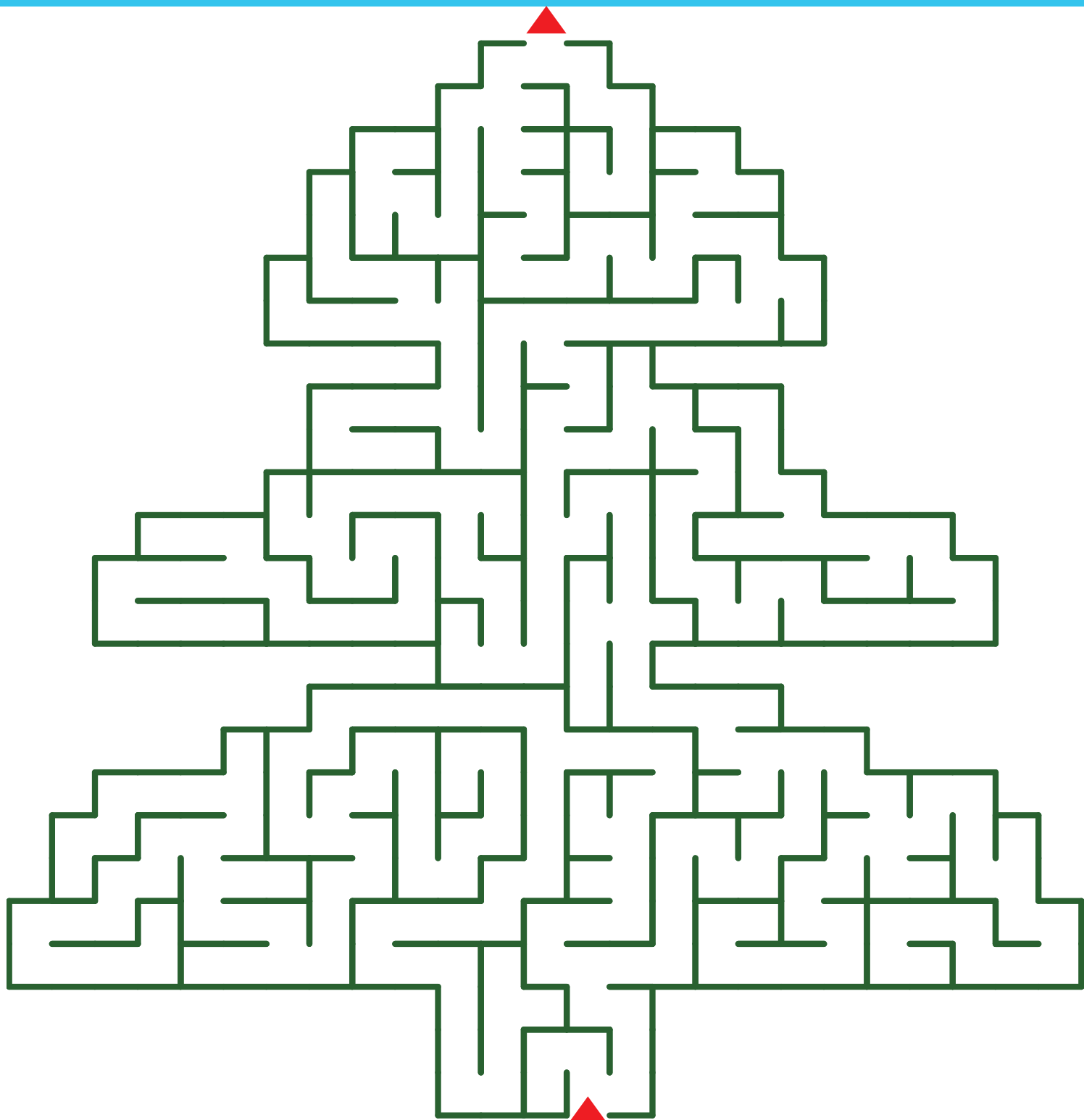
Zacchaeus told Jesus, "Behold, Lord, I will give half of my goods to the poor and whoever I have cheated on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

Jesus knew that Zacchaeus' heart had changed, and he had repented of his wrongdoing.

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.

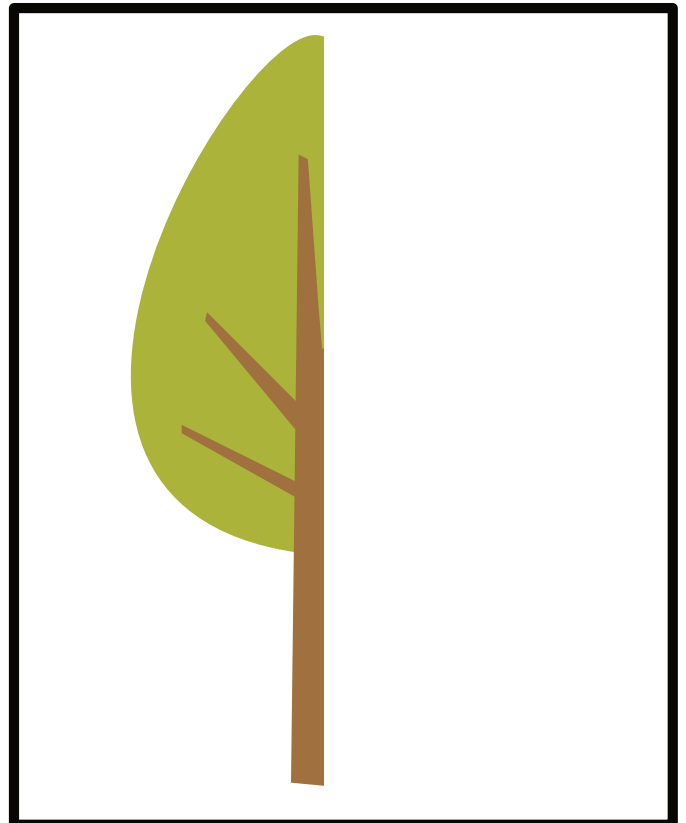
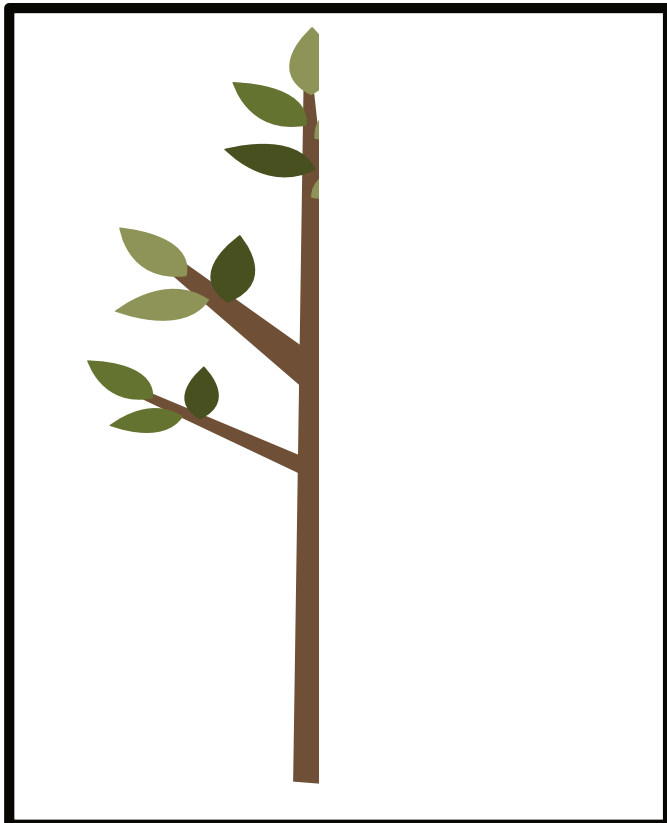
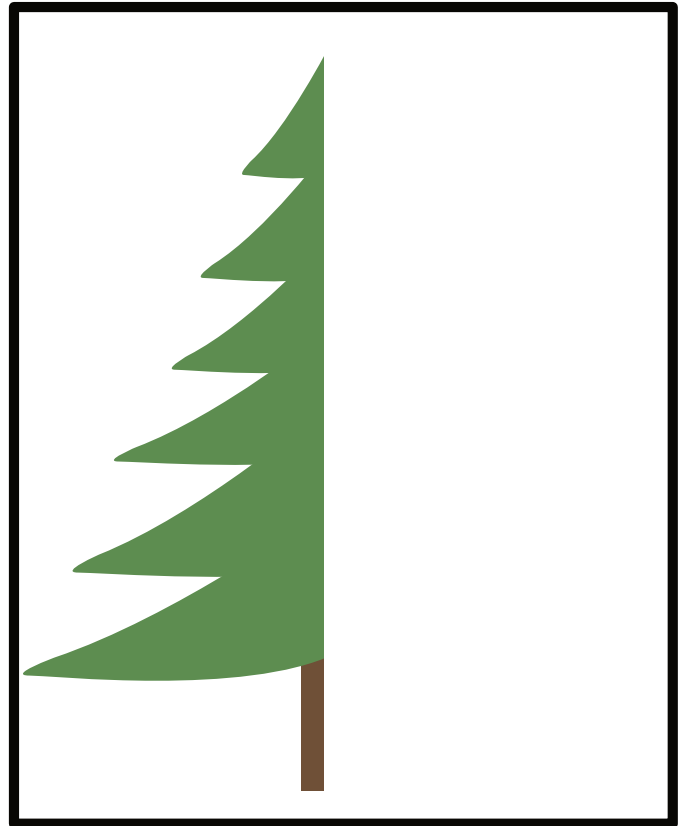
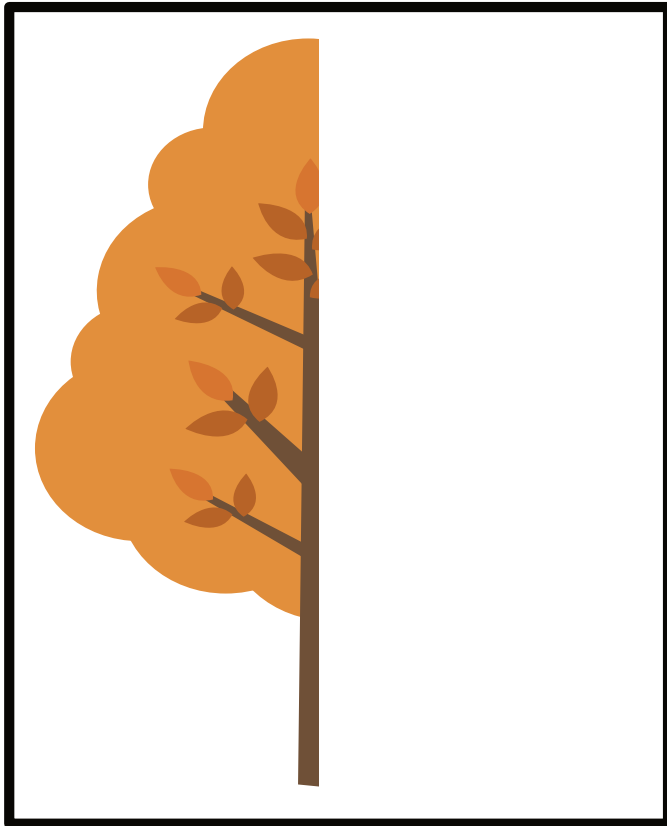


For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."



**Help Zacchaeus
climb the tree**

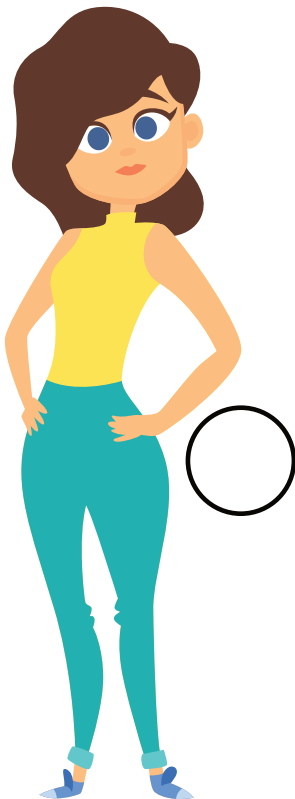
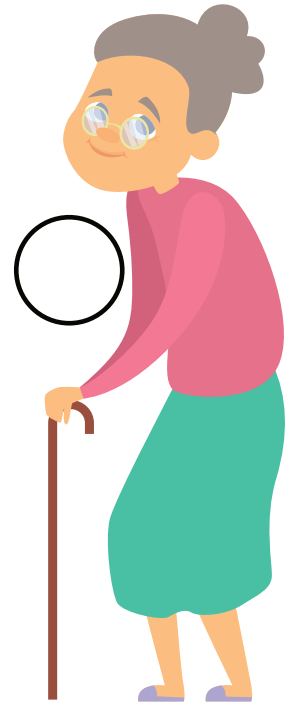
Draw the other half of the trees



Measure the people



13
12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

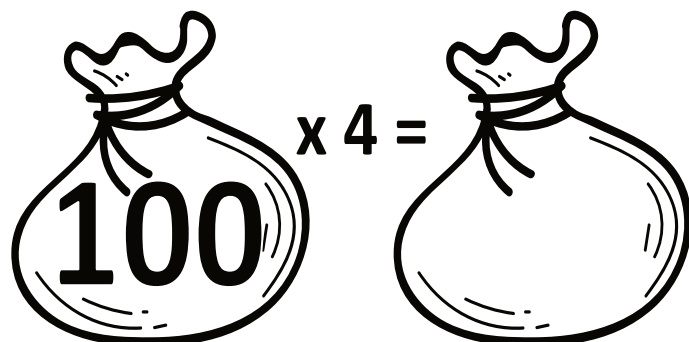
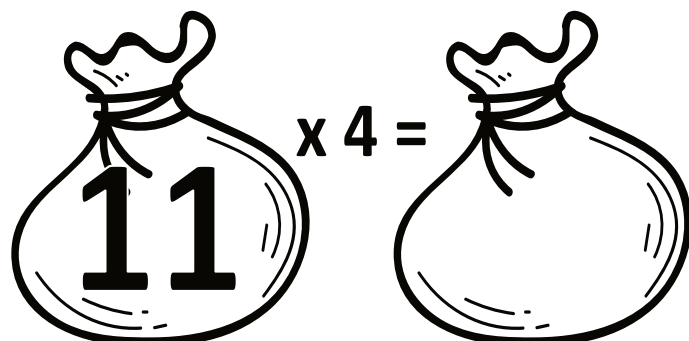
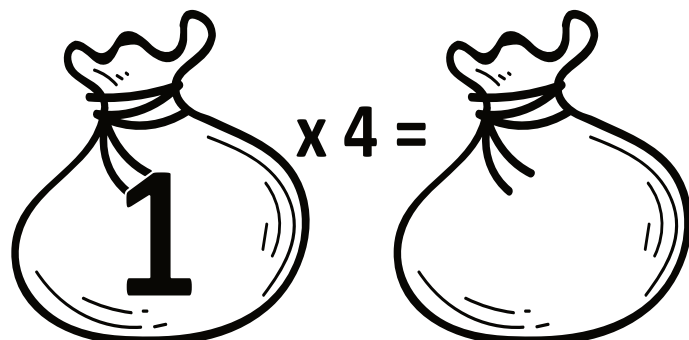
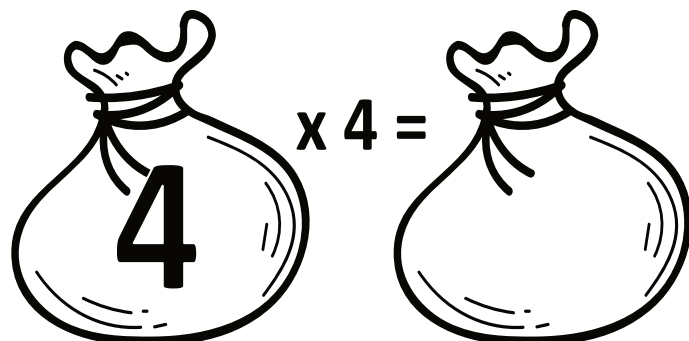
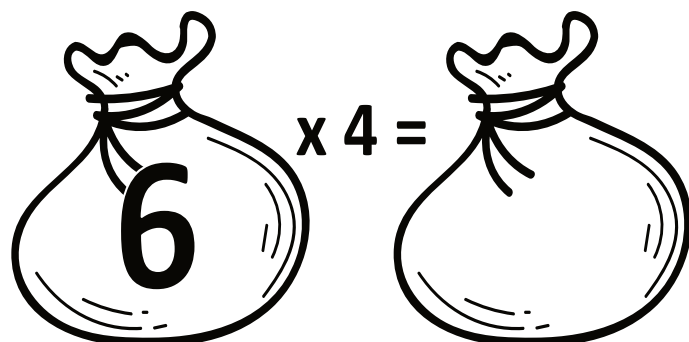
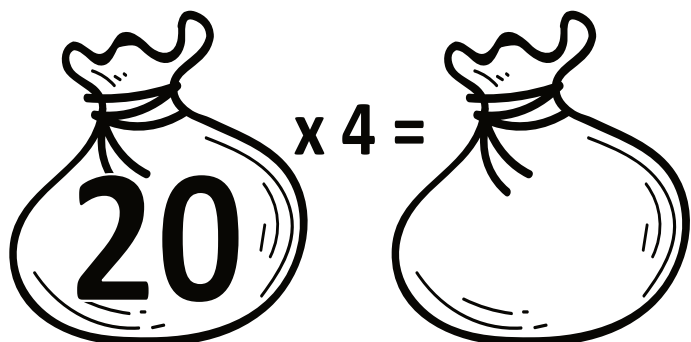
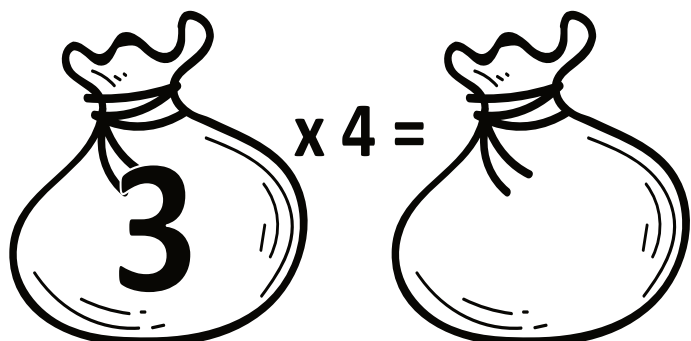
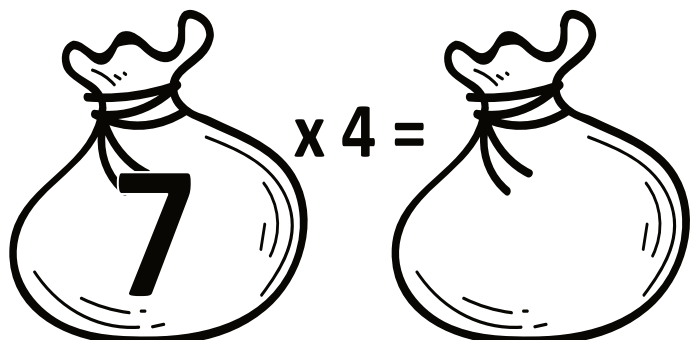
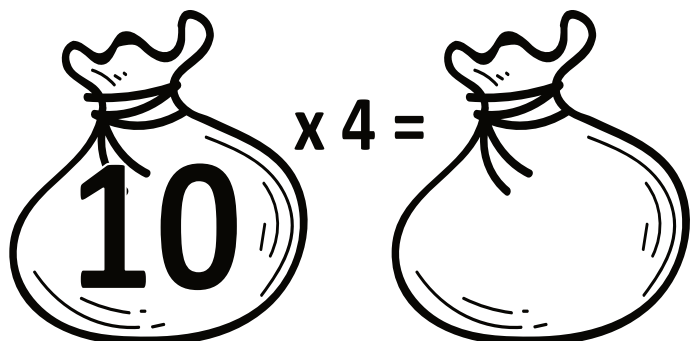
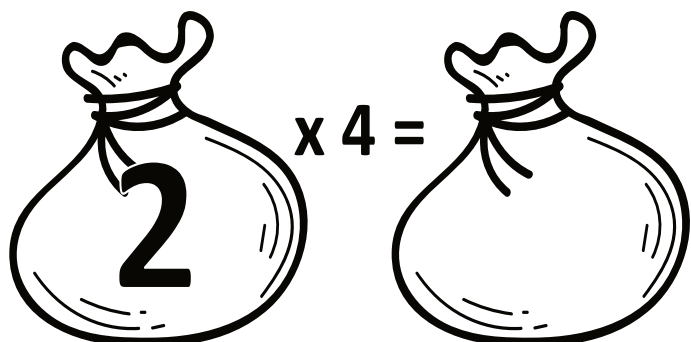


Who is the tallest?

Who is the Shortest?

Zacchaeus promised to pay four times the amount he had cheated.

What is four times these amounts?



Games and Activities

Create an obstacle course

Create an indoor or outdoor obstacle course with objects you have on hand. Not only will children love the challenge, they will also be working on gross motor skills. Vary the activities such as walking, jumping, balancing, and climbing. Adapt them to the ability of your child, so they are challenging but doable. Speak about the obstacles that get in the way of people coming to Jesus.



Sort by size

Line up random objects. On go, the child should try to arrange the toys from smallest to the tallest.

If you are in a group setting, have children arrange themselves by size.

At home, you could take a family photo with your family lined in order of size.



Pay it back

This is a quick reaction game that practices maths skills.

Place coins (paper cut outs or real) around the room.

Optional: Split children into teams.

Role a dice. When it stops, children should notice the number and run to collect four times the amount of coins.

Talk about how Zacchaeus promised to pay back four times what he had taken.



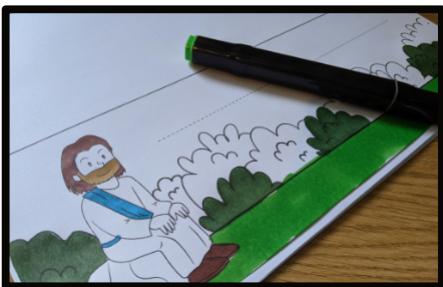
Zacchaeus in the Tree



What you need:

Template page (on card for best results),
Colouring pencils,
Scissors,
Tape,
Wool.

What to do:



Colour the template page.

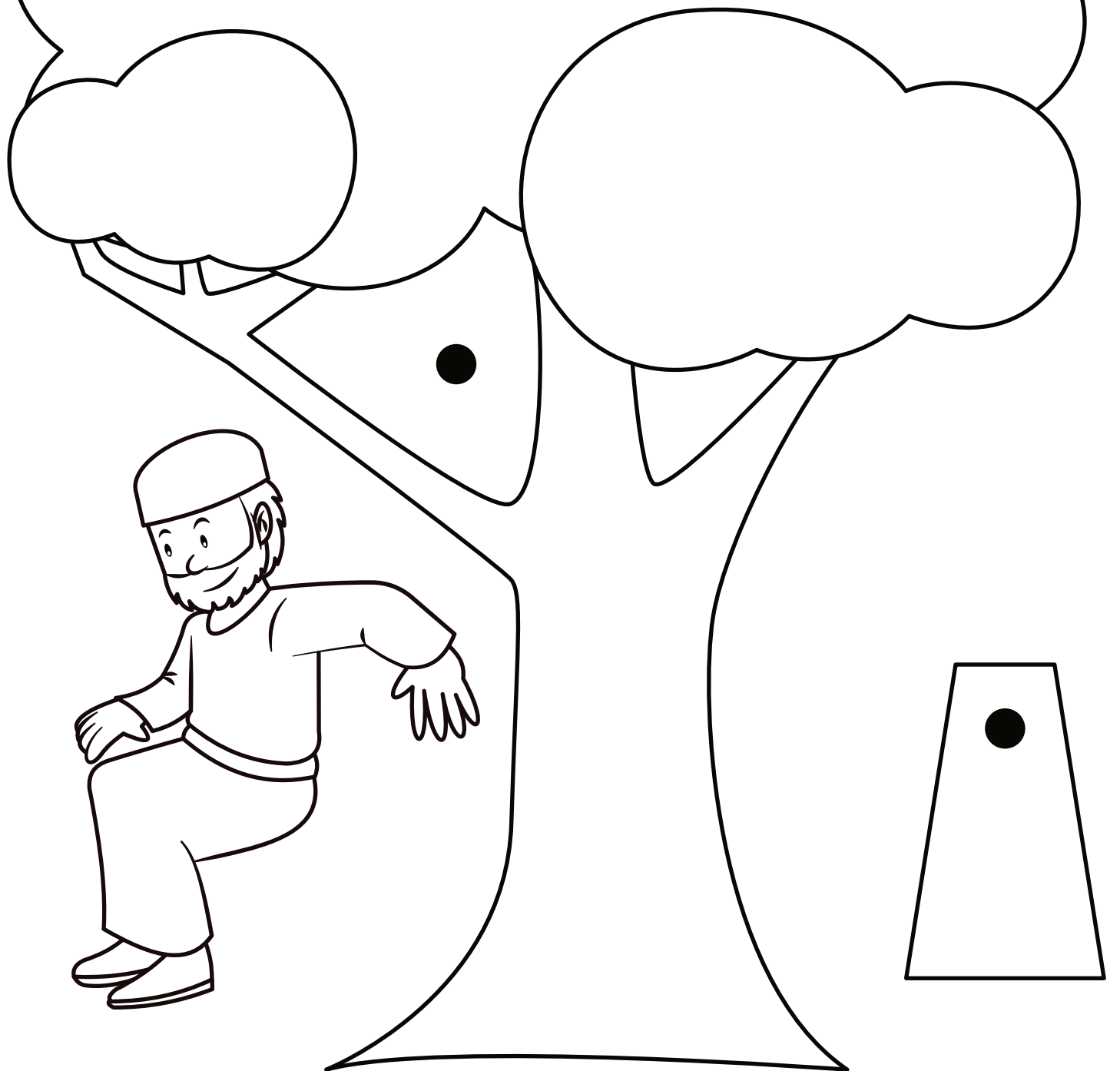


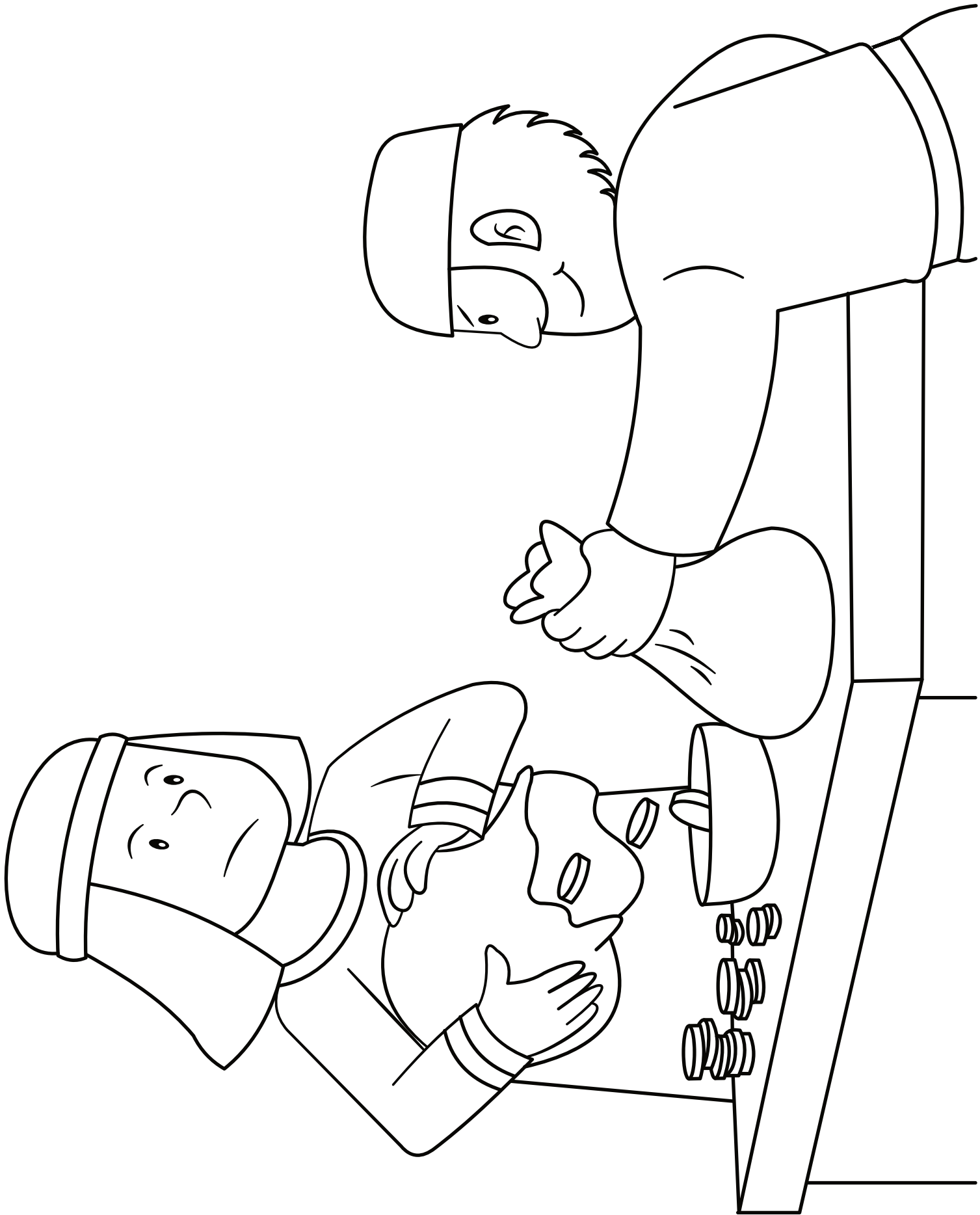
Cut around the tree,
Zacchaeus, and the tag.

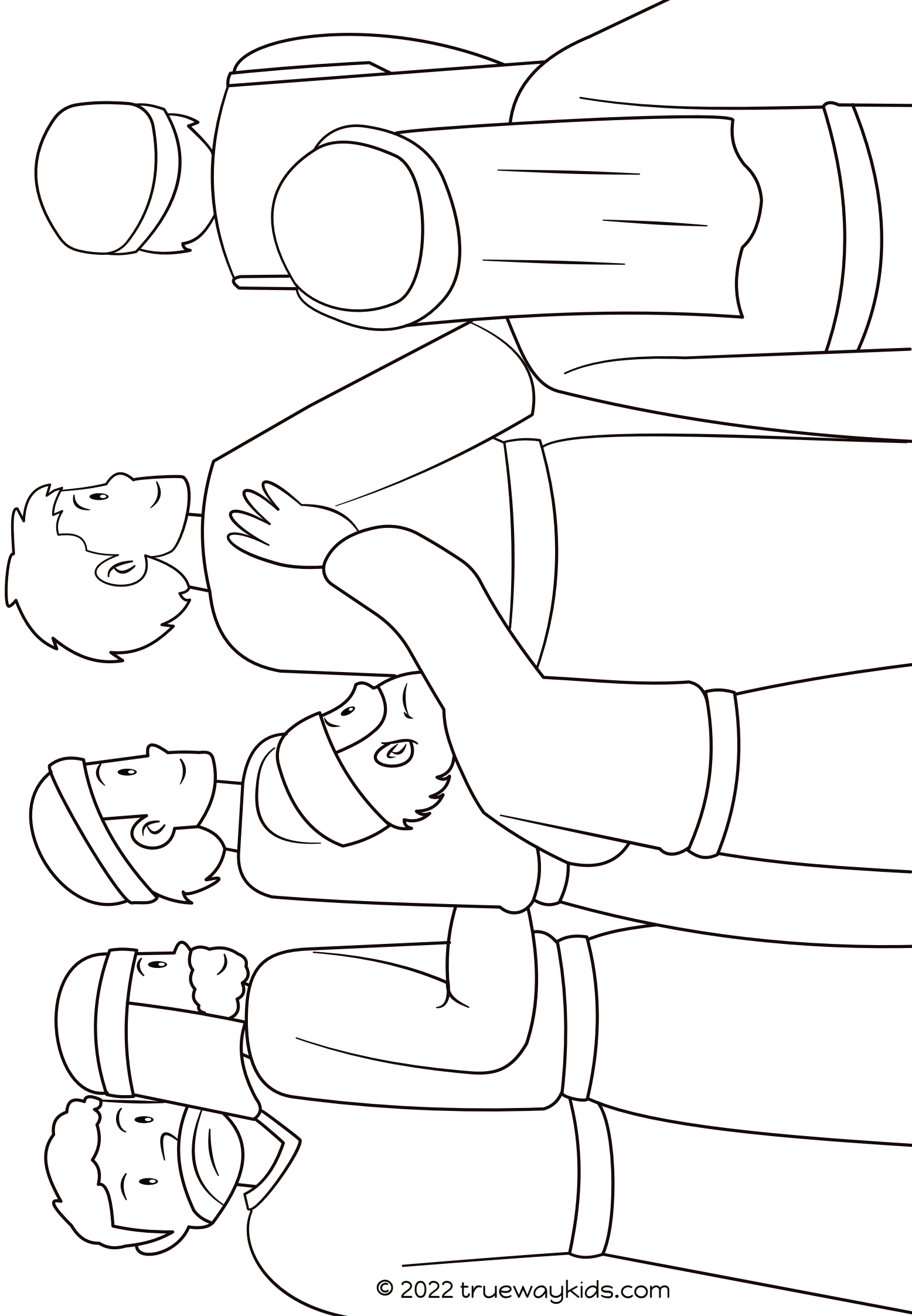


Make a hole where
indicated. Thread through
wool. Tape wool onto
Zacchaeus and tie onto
tag.

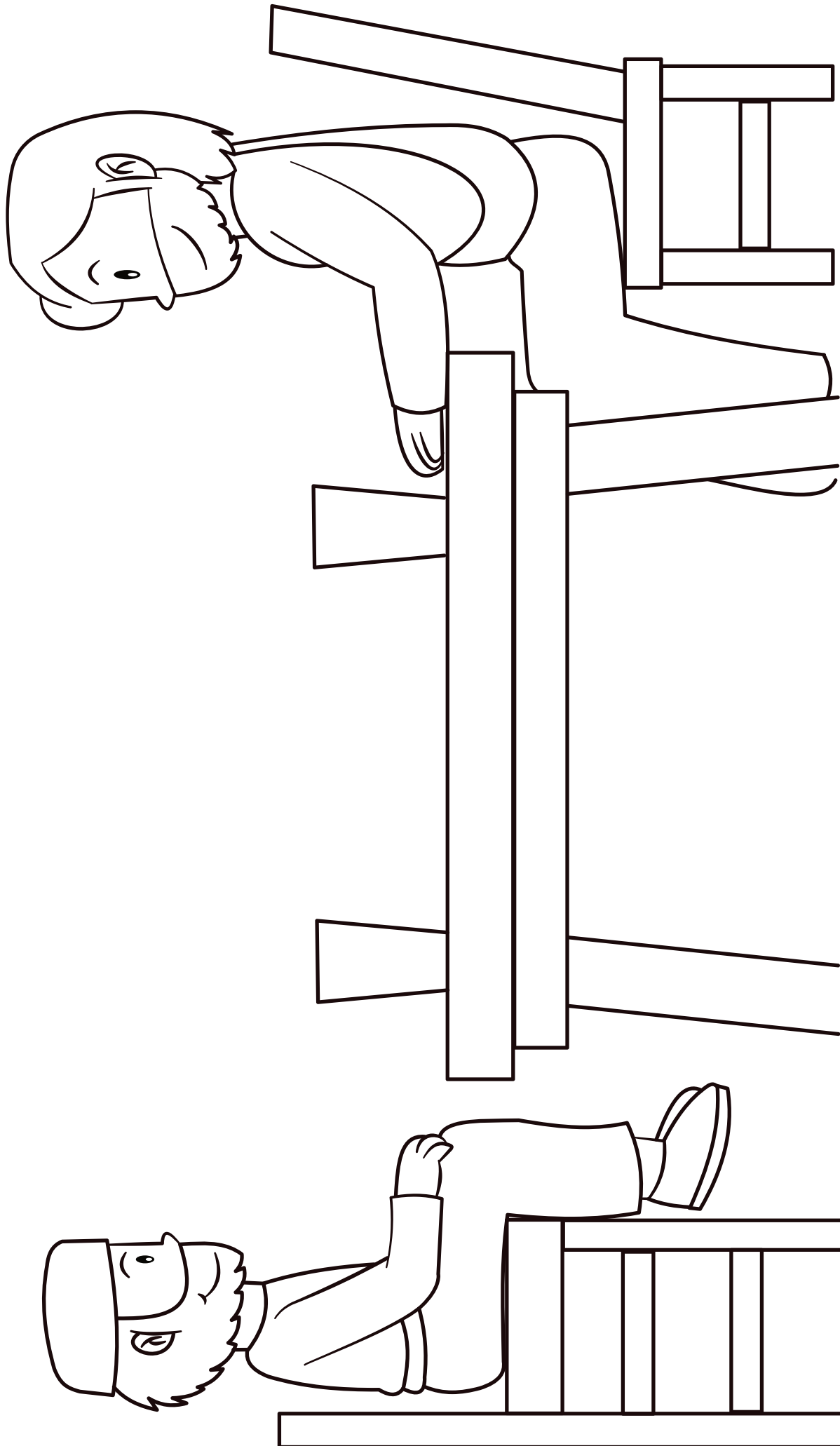
"The Son of Man came
to find lost people
and save them."
Luke 19:10











Worship Time

Recommend worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man

<https://youtu.be/qdZ2mAEHEoc>

For the Son of Man

https://youtu.be/G6-_4lQYCjg

Repent! a Children's Song

<https://youtu.be/idKRmNZ0078>



Prayer

Thank God that Jesus came to save the lost.

Ask Jesus to help us see Him clearly, repent and obey Him.

Next Week

The Ten Lepers

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lesson by email.
truewaykids.com/subscribe/

