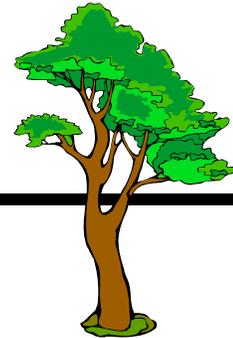


Get Ready!

Jesus and Zacchaeus

By: Kara Huffer



Text

Luke 19:1-10

Key Quest Verse

“All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” Acts 10:43 (NIV)

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

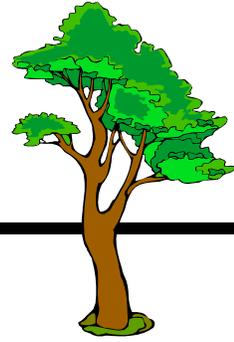
Bible Background

Zacchaeus, a tax collector, was a very wealthy man. Honesty was not found in his money though, because he often cheated people. He did, however, want to see Jesus when He was passing through Jericho. Since Zacchaeus was a short man, he climbed up a sycamore-fig tree so he could see him better.

Jesus saw him up there, but told him to come down. He also mentioned that He was going to stay at Zacchaeus' house that night. All the people that surrounded Him were shocked that Jesus would be the guest at a sinner's house. (We can also stress that we should be friends with sinners, so we can bring them to Jesus to be forgiven. That's where Acts 10:43 ties into this lesson).

Just after the people began to judge, Zacchaeus stood up willingly, and said to Jesus that he would return the possessions he had taken from the poor and pay back any money he had owed.

At the end of the passage, Jesus forgives Zacchaeus. He emphasizes that salvation will be coming to his home, because Zacchaeus is now a Son of Abraham and is now saved from once being lost.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: Jesus has the power to forgive.

Feel: Relieved from past mistakes, while being close to Jesus.

Do: Ask Jesus for forgiveness, willingly.

Leader's Devotion

As Christians, we realize that forgiveness is one of the many facets of our Savior. Ephesians 1:7 says that “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance to God’s grace.” Forgiveness can be seen as a gift that has been given to us, so we need to remember to stay humble as we receive that gift. While being humble, we will also realize that forgiveness is not something that believers should hold onto for themselves. From our passage in Luke 19:5-7, Jesus tells Zacchaeus He will stay at his house, but received a reaction of shock from other people for saying this. However, I believe, that this is the attitude we should have. We should bring Jesus into the “homes” of sinners and non-believers, without worrying what others think, so forgiveness and salvation can become their gift as well. Let’s continue to be humble and thankful for forgiveness, and ask the Lord for guidance as we bring others to know Jesus as Savior.

Get Set!

Option A

I Dare ‘Ya

Materials: None

Procedure: Gather your students into a circle and start a friendly game of dare. Initiate by saying to a student **“I dare you to do ten jumping jacks in the center of our circle.”**

Let the students take over now and carry out the game on their own. Once they’ve had fun with it, ask them to sit down. **We often take brave risks in life, which are all hopefully done for something good. Today, we are going to learn about a man who did something very brave so he could see someone very special!**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Squeaky Clean

Materials: Basket or box, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar or hand soap, washcloth, etc.

Procedure: I forgot what all these items in my basket are supposed to do for me?

Go around to different students and show one item at a time. **Can you tell me what this item is and what it is used for?** Make your way around all the students. **Oh yeah, I guess all these items are here so I can get clean on the outside. But, I don’t think that means anything if we are not clean on the inside first. Today, we are going to learn about a man who was not clean inside until he began to know Jesus.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

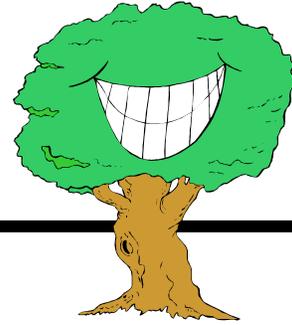
Read the story from the Scriptures, then read the following story.

Jesus was passing through the city of Jericho, and a man named Zacchaeus wanted to see him. He happened to be very short though, so he climbed up a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus as He passed along.

When Jesus reached the tree he called out “Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today.” So, Zacchaeus came down right away to greet Jesus. The people of Jericho began to talk behind their backs, because they thought it was odd that Jesus was going to stay at the house of a sinner. Zacchaeus’ problem of being short was nothing compared to the sins he was guilty of.

However, Zacchaeus boldly said to Jesus that he would return all the things he had taken and pay back all the money that he had stolen. Jesus was very proud of Zacchaeus and immediately forgave him. From then on, Zacchaeus was a changed man.

Go!



Tree Hunt

FIELD TRIP

Materials: Construction paper and markers

Quest Connection

On our field trip, we are going to find a tall tree. This will help us picture how high Zacchaeus climbed so he could see Jesus. **Also, they we will be able to associate forgiveness and a love for Christ with the tree as well.**

Procedure: When you are still in the classroom pass out sheets of construction paper and a marker for each student and tell them not to write on their paper until you say it is time.

Today, we have a field trip. We are going to find a tall tree, like the one Zacchaeus climbed, which could be around our church. Once you've picked your tree, ask all the students to sit on the ground around the tree. **Can you believe that Zacchaeus climbed all the way to the top of a tree so he could see Jesus? He did this brave act, because he had a strong love for Jesus. Right now I want all of you to pick a leaf off the tree and then return to where you were sitting. Once you have your leaf, place it on your paper and trace it with your marker. Now inside your traced leaf, write one brave act that would show your love for Jesus. An example could be "I would run a thousand miles for Jesus." In our story, Zacchaeus was also thankful that Jesus forgave him for the bad things he had done, which is so important. Next, write "Jesus Forgives" on your leaf. When you get home, you can hang this on the refrigerator or a place where you can see it easily.**

Close

When you see your leaf, you will think of the tree that Zacchaeus climbed and of the brave act you would do to show your love for Jesus. Also, we will remember that Jesus forgives. All we have to do is keep Him in our hearts and ask Him to take away the bad things we wish we didn't do.

Go!**Student Interview****GUEST QUEST**

Materials: Paper and pencils

Quest Connection

A little later in our class, we are going to have a guest come in to talk to us about a brave act that they did to grow closer to Jesus. This will let them know that Zacchaeus is not the only one who can go out of his way for Christ, but someone they know and they can too.

Procedure: Prior to your class, ask a member of your church who has done a brave act for Jesus, if they would mind being interviewed by some of your students during class.

Before our guest comes in, we are going to create some questions to ask. Let your students think of related questions and have them write them down. Now, I need a couple volunteers to be the interviewers to ask our guest the questions. **Once you have some willing students bring in your guest and start the interview.**

Close

Just because we learned about Zacchaeus in our Bible story today, does not mean that he is the only one who can do brave acts for Jesus. As we saw in our interview, someone from our very own church did something amazing. Not only could he, but you guys can as well. This week, we can think of ways we can show our love for Jesus.

Go!**Keep Me Clean!****SCIENCE**

Materials: Two plastic cups per student, water, cooking oil, red food coloring

Quest Connection

Our experiment today is going to represent our lives without Jesus and our lives once we ask Jesus to forgive and be a part of us.

Procedure: Pass out two cups to each student, but you will only work with one cup at a time. Fill each student's first cup with about $\frac{2}{3}$ water. In this experiment, each item represents something. The red food coloring stands for all the bad things we regret doing, the water is our lives, and the oil represents forgiveness. As I pass around the red food coloring, you will put two drops into your cup. You will see that your red drops mixed in with the water. Since we didn't add our forgiveness to the experiment yet, the bad things (or sin) is mixed into our lives. This is something we don't want, so who do we need to bring into our lives to erase our sin? **Jesus**. Now we are going to bring forgiveness into the experiment and see what happens. **Pour $\frac{2}{3}$ water, then a thin layer of oil to each student's second cup.** Now put two drops of your food coloring into the cup just like last time. What do you notice? The drops are not mixing with the water. This is because oil does not mix with the food coloring, just like Jesus does not mix with sin.

Close

When we ask Jesus to forgive the bad things we have done, they never mix with our lives again because they get erased. After Zacchaeus asked Jesus to forgive him for stealing, Zacchaeus was a different man. He did not let stealing come into his life, because he had Jesus. Just like our experiment, Jesus will not let the bad things mix with your life once He has forgiven you.

Go!



Still Up In the Tree?

DRAMA

Materials: Large cardboard box, 3x5 cards

Quest Connection

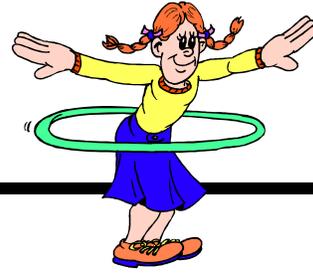
In this exercise, the students will associate the tree in the story as a way to get help and be closer to Jesus. Also, they will relate problems they would come across in their lives, as things they could come with to Jesus

Procedure: This skit involves two volunteers at a time. One volunteer will be in the tree. **You can place the cardboard box over this student's head. They will pull it down as if it were the bark of a tree (a box that held an appliance is good). The student can hold it around their waist or let it drop at their feet.** The next volunteer will ask why that person is in the tree. For the student in the tree, I will give you a problem written on the 3x5 card. **An example could be getting in trouble for cheating on a test.** You will tell your problem to the class. The second volunteer will then give you his advice and also get the opinion of the class. **Try to gear their answers, which relate to Jesus as needed.** Then the two volunteers must agree on a way that the problem could be solved. **Write more problems down, so more students have a turn.**

Close

When we have a problem or when we've done something wrong, we often ask our friends for advice. But, Jesus is the only one who can give us true forgiveness for the things we've done wrong. Also, when other friends ask us for advice, we should tell them about Jesus too! Mention Acts 10:43. **Zacchaeus climbed up that tree so he could see Jesus and ask Him for help. From this, we can learn that Jesus is the most important person who can help us with the bad things we've done in our lives.**

Teacher Tip: If you'd like, bring in some branches for your volunteer in the tree to hold.

Go!**Obstacle Course****GAME**

Materials: Three hula-hoops, jump rope, and volleyball

Quest Connection

As we learned, Zacchaeus climbed up a tree to see Jesus, so we can say that this was an act of love even though it was hard to do. He put so much effort into climbing the tree, which was almost like a challenge he had to overcome. Today, we are going to have a little challenge of our own, which is an obstacle course. As we go through the obstacle course, let's see it as a challenge that we are overcoming for Jesus!

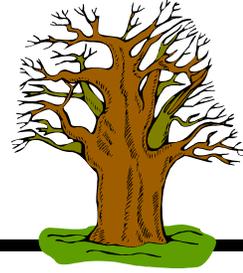
Procedure: Before your class, go outside and arrange the three hula-hoops into a triangle on the ground, then in front of it place your jump rope and then the volleyball. You can add other items to the course and exercises if you want as well. **As you start the course, you will first run through the hula-hoops, jump rope five times, and then throw the volleyball up and down five times. After you finish the course, then shout out, "This was for Jesus!"** After the students have gone, you can sit down in a circle or go back inside.

Close

I'm glad you all were able to meet the challenge. Since we love Jesus and want to please him, we can dedicate everything we do in life for him. We should always keep our focus on him (Mention Hebrews 12:2). When we are at home and school, let's take those hard challenges we face and do them for Jesus rather than getting upset over it.

Zacchaeus was very short and wasn't able to see Jesus as he passed the town, but he did not get upset. Instead, he just took that challenge to climb the tree to see Jesus. The next time you have a problem, make sure you include Jesus, because He has a solution for everything. Jesus always takes care of us, so we should ask ourselves what we would do for Him!

Go!



Grow for Jesus

BULLETIN BOARD

Materials: Brown butcher paper or brown paper bags, green construction paper, pencils, scissors, markers

Quest Connection

This project allows the students to associate the tree with growing closer to Jesus. As the students together make one tree, they will think of ways they could grow closer to Jesus by showing their love for Him.

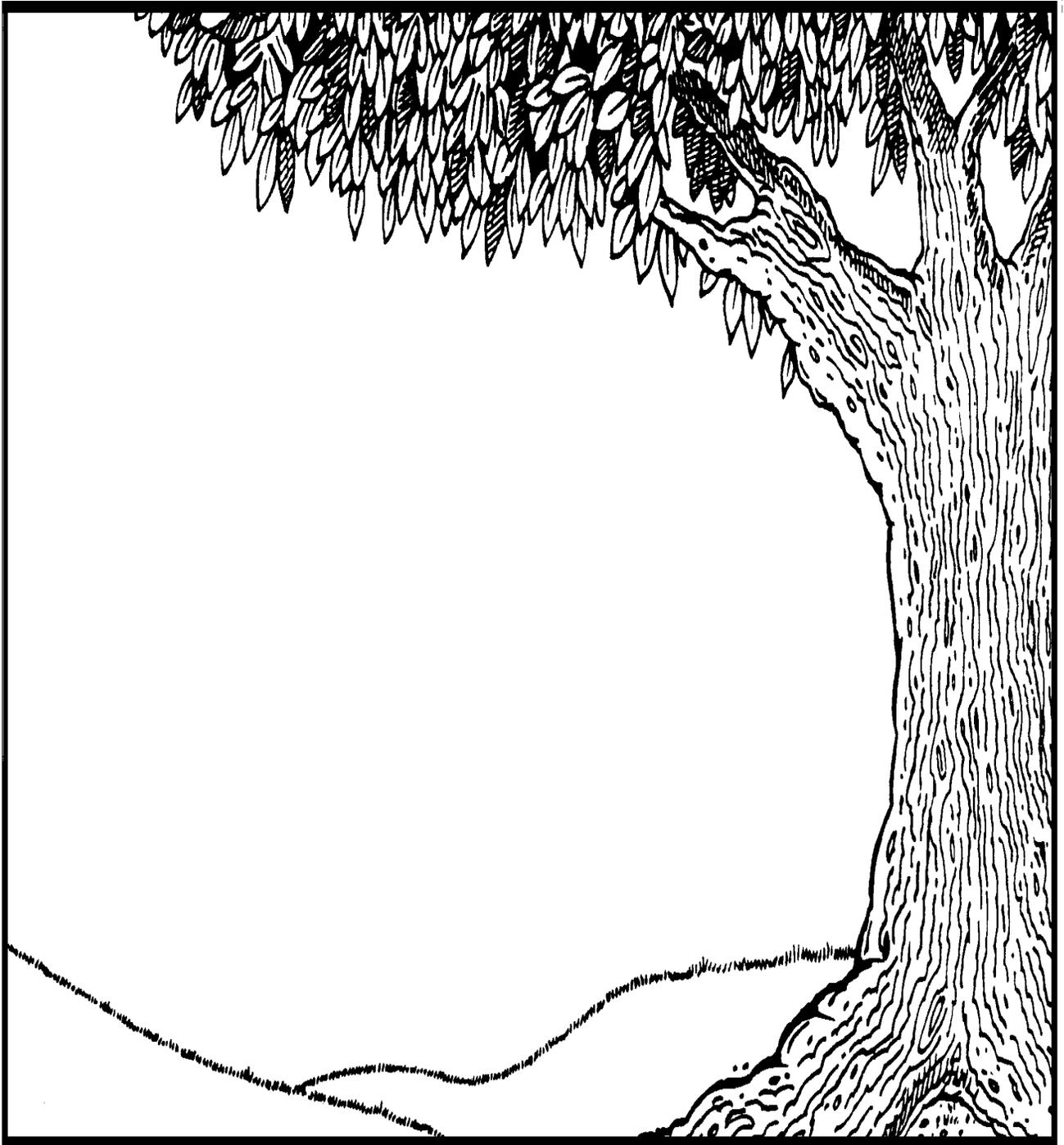
Procedure: Why was the tree so important in our story today? It allowed Zacchaeus to see Jesus, which allowed him to grow closer with Jesus. Today, we are going to make our own tree for our classroom, to help us remember. Before class, take brown butcher paper to make the trunk of the tree or use a brown marker to outline one and color inside. Either way, put your trunk at the middle of the board. Place it on the bottom edge so then it can be stapled vertically, just like a trunk would be. To make branches, simply cut out slivers of butcher paper and staple them in different directions coming up from the trunk. Or, outline these with marker. **Now, to make our leaves, we are going to trace the shape of our hands on our construction paper. When we place them on the board, they will actually look like leaves. After you are finished tracing your hand, with your markers write down an awesome way that you could show your love for Jesus. Then, cut out your handprint.** Once the students are finished, they can help you staple and arrange the leaves onto the bulletin board. Also, you can write a Key Quest Verse above the tree or a phrase like “Grow with Jesus.”

Close

What were some of the things you wrote down that would show your love for Jesus? All these things are wonderful, because any act that we do for Jesus is an amazing one. Sometimes we may think that the only ways we can show our love is by praying or reading the Bible. We should definitely do those things, but the truth is that if we do any act in our lives for Jesus that means that we are giving Him love.

So, when we go home and clean our room or even help with dinner, we can remember that we can do these things for Jesus if we dedicate them to Him. Let’s end by asking God to help us to continue to grow with His son Jesus.

Draw Zacchaeus in the tree and Jesus walking by. Then color the picture.



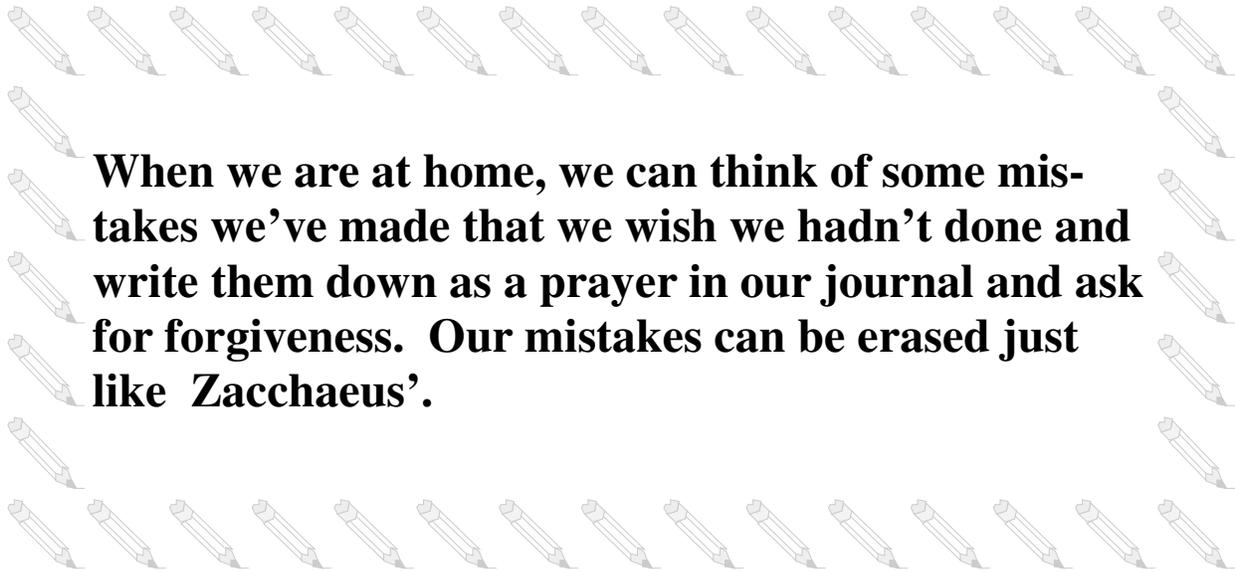
FLIP BOOK Fold on the dotted lines. Cut on the solid lines. Draw and color a picture on each flap to illustrate the sentence.

**Jesus passed
through Jericho.**

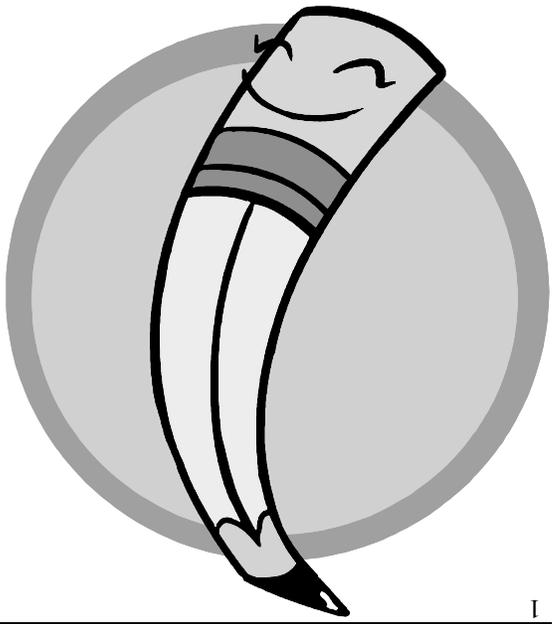
**Zacchaeus
climbed up a
tree in order to
see Jesus.**

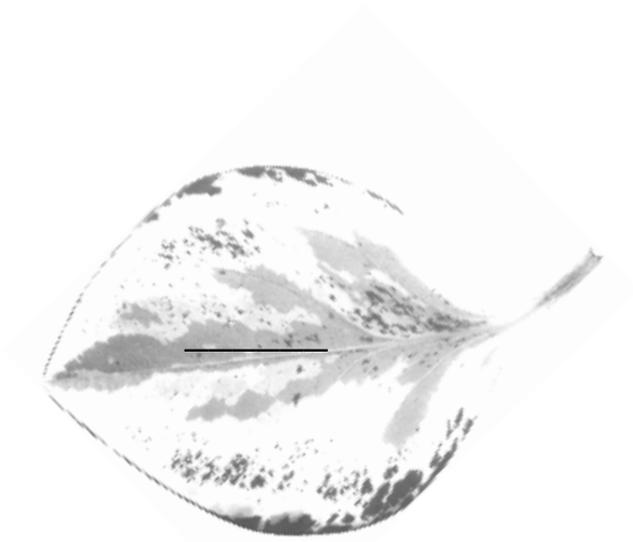
**Jesus told
Zacchaeus to
climb down
from the tree.**

**Zacchaeus said
he would return
the things that
he had stolen.
Jesus forgave
him.**

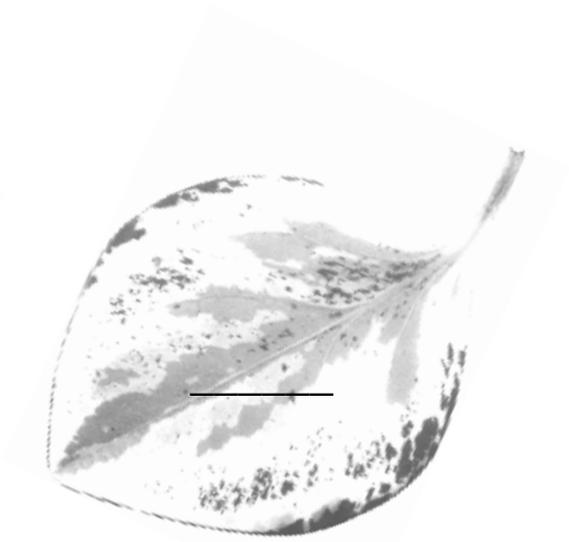


When we are at home, we can think of some mistakes we've made that we wish we hadn't done and write them down as a prayer in our journal and ask for forgiveness. Our mistakes can be erased just like Zacchaeus'.

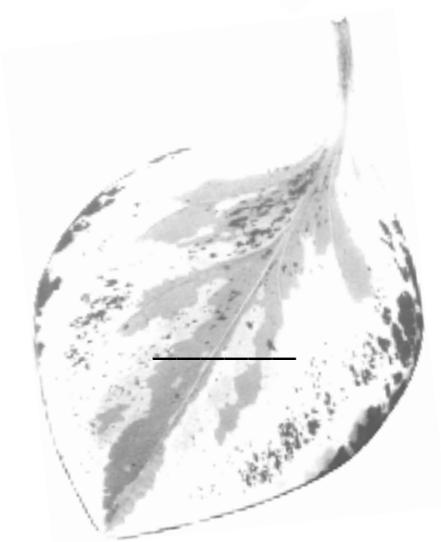




Zacchaeus was about medium height.



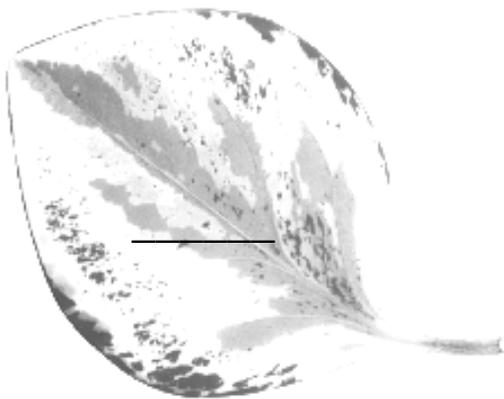
Jesus passed through the town of Jericho.



Zacchaeus never stole anything.



Jesus planned to stay at Zacchaeus' house.



Jesus forgave Zacchaeus for his mistakes.

Write true or false inside the leaf , by each statement!