

Zacchaeus Craft

Paper plate sycomore tree · Luke 19:1–10 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium

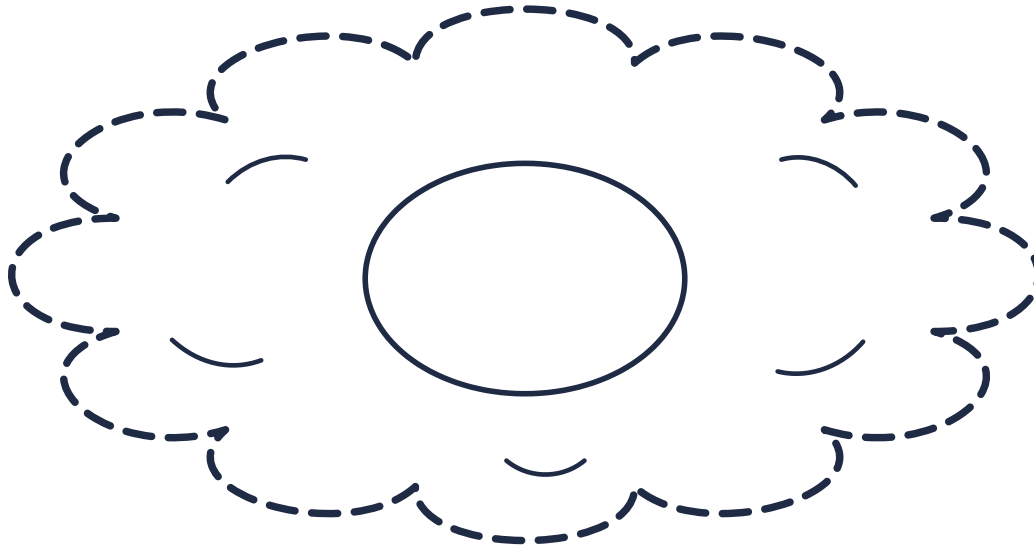


Harder

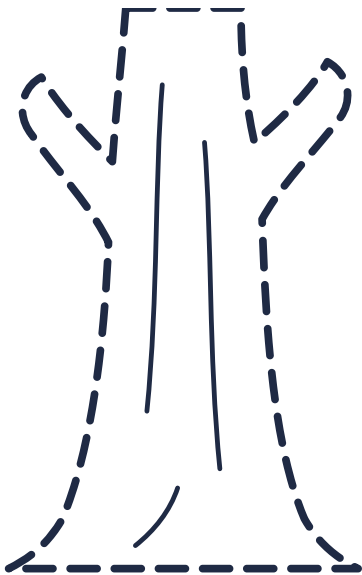
Both are a paper plate with a sycomore tree and Zacchaeus drawn in the oval window, up in the tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:4). For the harder level, kids also cut the leaves and the leaf flap from page 3. The flap covers the window and lifts up to show Zacchaeus.

Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Treetop: color it green, then draw Zacchaeus in the oval window. Cut on the dashed line.



**"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save
that which was lost."**

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

Trunk: color it brown and cut it out. The verse strip goes on the back of the plate.

Name: _____

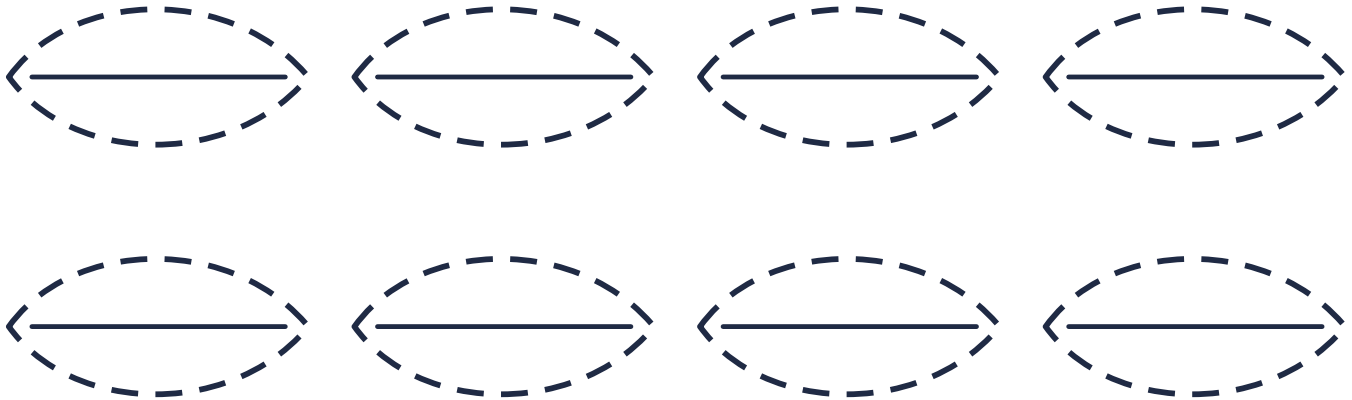
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Leaves and leaf flap (harder level)

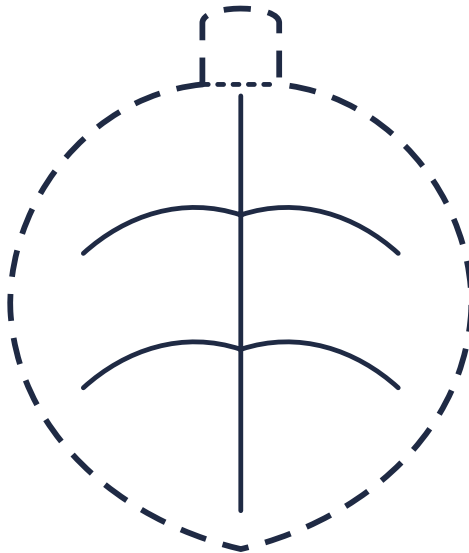
Color every leaf green. Cut them out on the dashed lines.

Fold each small leaf in half on its middle line.

8 small leaves



Leaf flap: it covers the window. Put glue only on the small tab at the top.



Glue one half of each small leaf around the treetop, so the other half stands up.

Lift the leaf flap to find Zacchaeus, just as Jesus looked up and saw him.

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/zacchaeus-craft

Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels

You need: one 9-inch white paper plate per child, page 2 printed once per child, crayons or markers (green, brown, black and a few colors for drawing), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, and green paper if you have it.

Before class: print the pages. For preschoolers, cut out the treetops, trunks and verse strips ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's treetop, trunk and verse strip. Kids color grass along the bottom of the plate, color the treetop green and the trunk brown, and draw Zacchaeus in the oval window (a simple face is fine). Help them glue the trunk on the plate and the treetop over it. Glue the verse strip on the back for them and read it together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color the grass and the tree, draw Zacchaeus in the window, cut out the pieces, glue the tree on the plate and glue the verse strip on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** do every medium step, then cut out the 8 small leaves and the leaf flap on page 3 and color them green (or trace them onto green paper and cut those out). Fold each small leaf in half on its middle line. Glue one half of each leaf around the edge of the treetop so the other half stands up. Put glue only on the small tab at the top of the leaf flap and stick it just above the oval window, so the flap hangs down over Zacchaeus and lifts up to show him. Glue the verse strip on the back and say the verse from memory. This is the craft in the second photo.
- **Paper for the harder leaves:** if you have green paper, cut one small leaf and one flap from page 3 to use as patterns and trace them onto the green paper (you can trace them before class). If you don't, kids color the printed leaves green, then cut them out.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Grass:** lay the paper plate face up. With a green crayon, color grass along the bottom of the flat middle.
2. **Color the tree:** color the treetop green and the trunk brown. Leave the oval window white.
3. **Draw Zacchaeus:** in the oval window, draw Zacchaeus up in the tree, looking out to see Jesus (Luke 19:3–4).
4. **Cut:** cut out the treetop, the trunk and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue the tree:** glue the trunk standing up in the middle of the plate with its roots on the grass. Then glue the treetop over the top of the trunk.
6. **Verse:** turn the plate over, glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was, but the crowd was too big and he was short. What did he do? (*He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree, Luke 19:3–4.*)
- When Jesus came to the place, He looked up, saw Zacchaeus and called him by name (Luke 19:5). Jesus knows your name too! Point to Zacchaeus in your tree's window.
- Zacchaeus came down quickly and was glad to have Jesus at his house (Luke 19:6). Then he gave half of his goods to the poor (Luke 19:8). What is one way you can share this week?

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** Son of man = a name Jesus called Himself; is come = has come; seek = look for; lost = far away from God; sycamore = the KJV spelling of the kind of tree Zacchaeus climbed.
- **Drawing Zacchaeus:** kids can draw a simple smiling face looking out of the leaves. The window is small, so a crayon or a thin marker works best.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished tree so they can see the goal.
- **Leaf flap (harder level):** only the tab gets glue. Press it down for a slow count of five, then let kids lift the flap and say, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down!" (Luke 19:5).
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Zacchaeus Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/zacchaeus.