

# KIDZONE



## SPY REPORTS ON JESUS 6

"Tax collectors are traitors! We hate them. They're Jews but they work for the Romans. These foreigners have conquered our country, taken away our freedom and forced us to pay them tax. Often tax collectors cheat us by taking too much. This makes them very rich. But we Pharisees have heard that Jesus is making friends with tax collectors. This is terrible. Go to Jericho and investigate Jesus and the chief tax collector there named Zacchaeus."

So the Pharisees sent their spies on another mission.



## UP A TREE

Zacchaeus was very rich, mean and lonely. Everyone hated him. He was also very short.

Every day he went to people's houses to force them to pay tax. The children hated him coming into their street. They knew there would be less to eat after Zacchaeus took the money. Often he charged too much.

One day news spread through Jericho that Jesus was coming. Everyone wanted to see him. They all lined up along the main road to watch him go by.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus too. He had heard about this wonderful travelling teacher who healed sick and disabled people. He ran to join the crowds. But there were too many people and he was too short. He knew he wouldn't see anything from the back of the crowd.

No one wanted to make room for him. They all hated this tax collector. Zacchaeus was very disappointed.

Then suddenly he saw something and ran to it – a big sycamore tree with lots of leafy branches.

He hadn't climbed a tree since he was a boy. But he hauled himself up and slid along a branch that hung out over the road. He felt sure no one would see him hiding among all the leaves. Through a peep-hole he had a great view of Jesus.

But then Jesus stopped under the tree, looked up and saw him. He even knew his name!

"Zacchaeus", Jesus called, "come down. Can I come to your house for a meal today?"

Zacchaeus was very surprised. As fast as he could he skidded down the tree trunk.

"Of course you can," he said with joy.

The people in the crowd complained: "Fancy Jesus choosing a traitor's place to go to."

After dinner Zacchaeus stood up and made a little speech: "I'll give half of my belongings to poor people," he said. "And I'll pay back anyone I've cheated four times as much."

Jesus made a little speech too: "God's salvation has come into this home today. This man really is a Jew. I came into the world to save sinners like him."

When the spies reported back, even the Pharisees were amazed that Zacchaeus was so different after Jesus visited his home.

(This report is filed under Luke 19:1 – 10. Read it in the Bible yourself.)



## A PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you that you know my name. Thank you for coming into the world to seek and save me. Please forgive me when I do wrong things. Thank you that you always love me.

Amen.

BE a SPY!

# TOP SECRET REPORT

Fill in the blanks and copy this report into your Top Secret Notebook or computer file. Get the answers from "Up a Tree" or Luke 19:1 – 10.

Z \_\_\_\_\_ is completely c \_\_\_\_\_ since  
J \_\_\_\_\_ went to his h \_\_\_\_\_. Now he is going to the h \_\_\_\_\_  
of p \_\_\_\_\_ people to give them money and he is p \_\_\_\_\_ back  
f \_\_\_\_\_ times as much to the people he has c \_\_\_\_\_!  
Jesus said that he came into the w \_\_\_\_\_ to save s \_\_\_\_\_  
like Z \_\_\_\_\_."

## TOP SECRET VERSE

BE a SPY!

Here is Morse Code. You say "dit" for a dot and "dah" for a dash.

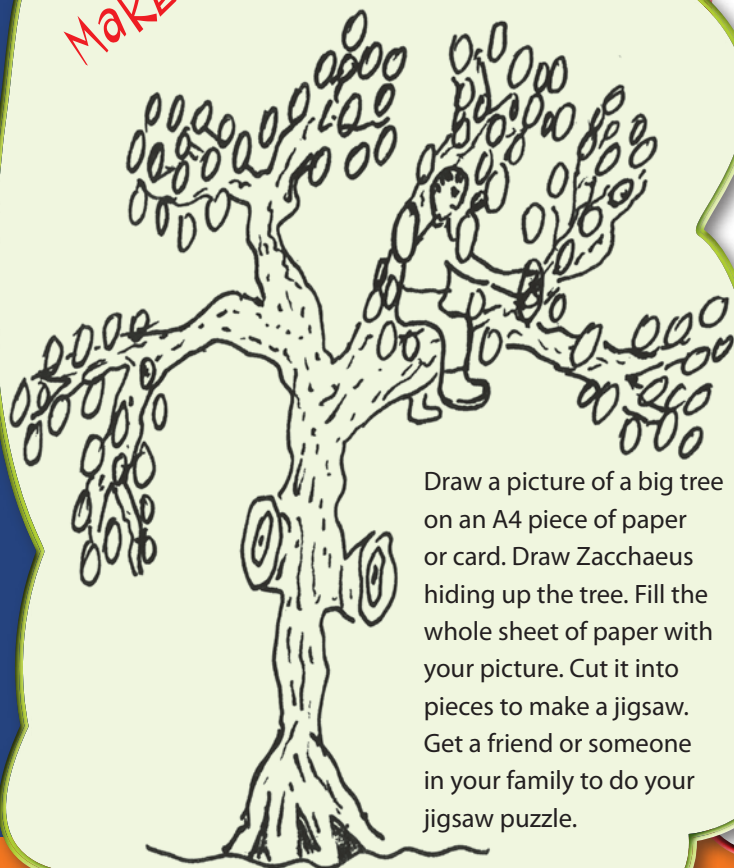
A	· —	O	— — —
E	·	N	— ·
K	· · —	S	· · ·
L	· — ·	T	—
M	— —	V	· · · —

Decode the words in Morse Code in this verse to find something Jesus said. Jesus used his Top Secret name for himself. Copy the whole verse into your Top Secret Notebook or computer file and learn it by heart.

The · · · / — — — / — · of — — / · — / —  
came to · · · / · / · / · · — and to  
· · · / · — / · · — / · the · — · / — — — / · · · / —

To check your answer look up Luke 19:10 in a Good News Bible.

## Make a Jigsaw



Draw a picture of a big tree on an A4 piece of paper or card. Draw Zacchaeus hiding up the tree. Fill the whole sheet of paper with your picture. Cut it into pieces to make a jigsaw. Get a friend or someone in your family to do your jigsaw puzzle.

## Make a Picture Book

Make a picture book about Zacchaeus. You will need 8 pieces of blank paper and felts. Copy a caption onto each sheet of paper. Leave space for the pictures and then draw them. Put the pages in order and staple them together. Read your story to your family or someone who is younger than you.

1. Zacchaeus was a rich, mean tax collector, who cheated people.
2. He wanted to see Jesus but there were too many people and he was too short.
3. So he climbed a tree.
4. Jesus stopped and looked up. He said, "Zacchaeus come down. Can I come to your house for a meal?"
5. Zacchaeus climbed down from the tree.
6. He was very happy to cook dinner for Jesus.
7. Zacchaeus said, "I'll pay back four times as much and give half my money to poor people."
8. Jesus said, "I came to seek and save lost people like Zacchaeus."

## WORD SEARCH

Find these words in this word search. Most of them come from Luke 19:1 – 10 in a Good News Bible.

CHEATED	CLIMBED	CROWD	GIVE
HOUSE	JERICHO	JESUS	JOY
PAY	POOR	RAN	RICH
SAVE	SEEK	SHORT	SINNER
TREE	TAX	COLLECTOR	ZACCHAEUS
HOME	LOST	SALVATION	SYCAMORE

S	R	O	T	C	E	L	L	O	C	X	A	T
Y	E	P	Q	X	Z	V	W	E	V	I	G	Z
C	Z	E	A	K	J	S	A	H	Q	Y	F	A
A	J	K	K	Y	U	X	Z	S	O	Q	J	C
M	F	Y	B	S	V	N	Q	P	W	M	D	C
O	Q	O	E	Z	A	Y	K	O	S	Z	E	H
R	X	J	E	R	I	C	H	O	I	X	B	A
E	V	W	Z	F	K	C	X	R	N	Q	M	E
T	R	O	H	S	I	R	Z	F	N	J	I	U
R	K	Q	J	R	W	O	X	J	E	F	L	S
E	S	U	O	H	X	W	K	Z	R	K	C	Q
E	V	W	Z	K	J	D	E	T	A	E	H	C
L	O	S	T	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S