

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 October 2022 - Year C

“The Son of Man came to seek out and save what was lost.”

Something to Think About

If Jesus were to visit your city or neighbourhood, to what lengths would you go to see him?

The Story

This is the story of a man who was keen to see Jesus but he couldn't. Why not? Firstly because he was too short to see over the crowds and secondly because no one would make room for him. He was a tax-collector, so nobody liked him. Zacchaeus was so determined to see Jesus that he climbed a tree which wasn't very dignified for a wealthy man! Jesus not only stopped but went to eat with Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus had a change of heart after being with Jesus and paid back all the money he had taken from people – four times over!

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

19:1-10

Jesus was going through Jericho, where a man named Zacchaeus lived. He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich.

Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like. But Zacchaeus was a short man and could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

When Jesus got there, he looked up and said,
"Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."
Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly welcomed Jesus.

Everyone who saw this started grumbling,
"This man Zacchaeus is a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him."

Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,
"I will give half of my property to the poor. And I will now pay back four times as much to everyone I have ever cheated."

Jesus said to Zacchaeus,
"Today you and your family have been saved, because you are a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to look for and to save people who are lost."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

[God's Story: Zacchaeus](#)



Group Discussion

Jesus knew that Zacchaeus had some goodness in him and he reached out to that inner goodness. How quick we can be to judge and condemn. How ready are we to look for the goodness in others even though it may not be obvious? Invite the children to think of anyone they may have misjudged and to contemplate their readiness to seek the goodness in others.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will work for peace and justice. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for people who are misunderstood. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for people who feel excluded and unloved. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will try hard to make time for Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will welcome others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



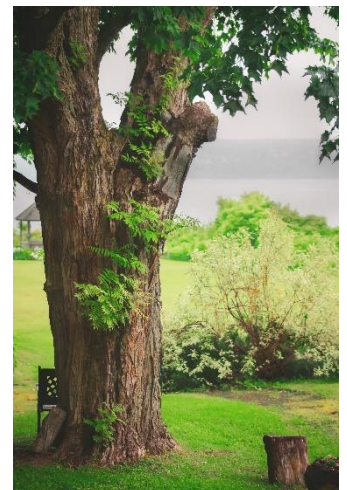
Dear Jesus,
Help us to keep our eyes on you like
Zacchaeus did.
Teach us to be open to the ways
you encourage us to grow in love.
Amen.

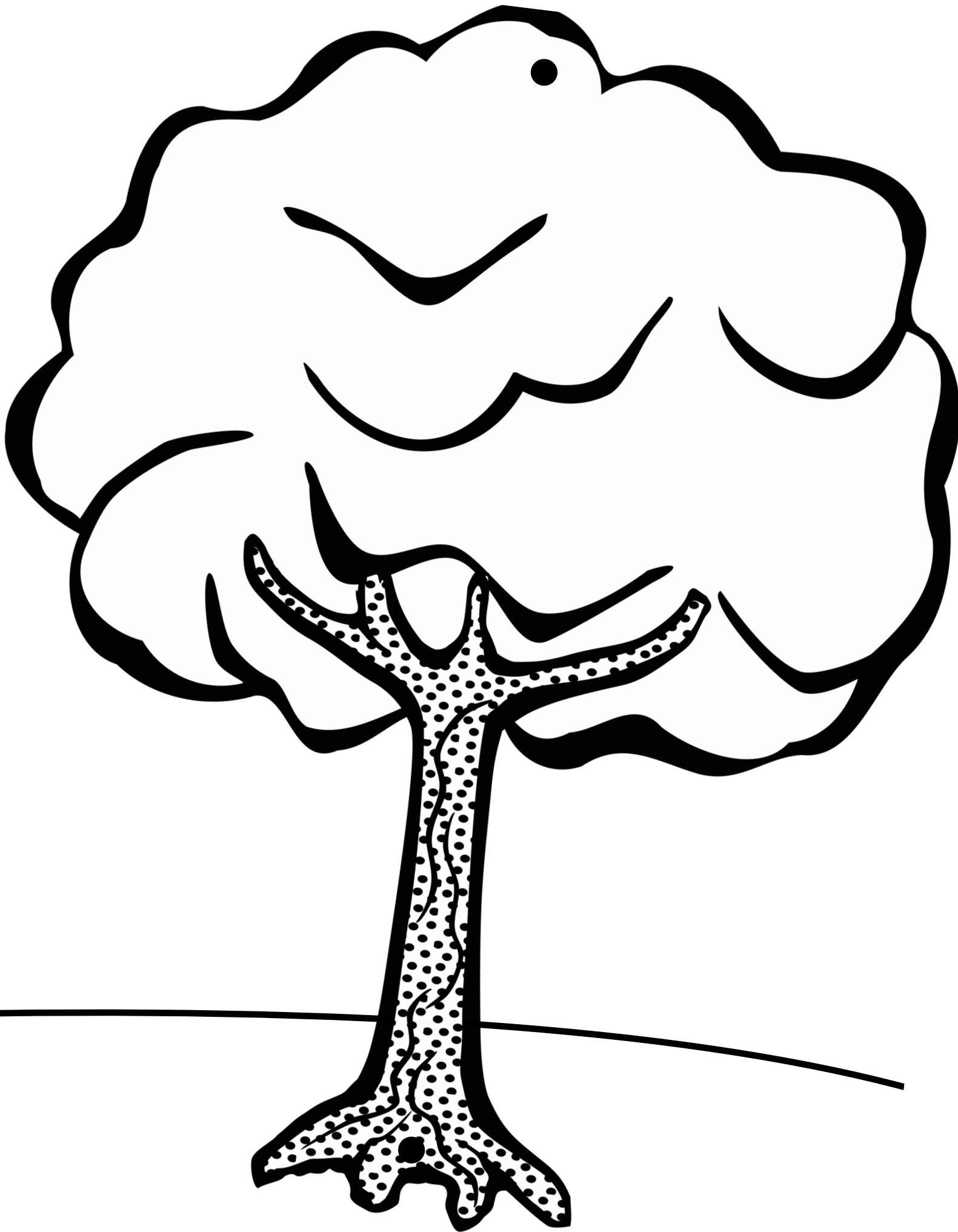
Group Activity

Zacchaeus in the Tree Craft

You will need: two-page template for each child printed on cardboard, wool or yarn, scissors, hole punch, glue, sticky tape, coloured markers or crayons.

1. Colour the tree, Zacchaeus, and Jesus.
2. Punch a hole at the top and bottom of the tree on the large black dot.
3. Cut 40 cm of wool. Lace the wool through the holes and tie it behind the tree (see below).
4. Cut out Zacchaeus and Jesus.
5. Glue Jesus on the ground beside the tree. Use clear tape to attach Zacchaeus to the wool.
6. Move Zacchaeus up and down the tree to retell the story!





Zacchaeus in the Tree Craft

You will need:

Templates on cardboard
Wool
Glue
Sticky Tape
Scissors
Hole punch
Coloured markers or crayons



Step 1: Print out page 1 & 2 for best results on cardboard.

Step 2: Colour the tree, Zacchaeus, and Jesus

Step 3: Punch a hole at the top and bottom of the tree on the large black dot.

Step 4: Cut 40 cm of wool. Lace the wool through the holes and tie it behind the tree (see below).

Step 5: Cut out Zacchaeus and Jesus

Step 6: Glue Jesus on the ground beside the tree. Use clear tape to attach Zacchaeus to the wool.

Step 7: Move Zacchaeus up and down the tree to retell the story!





ZACCHAEUS

**DRAW WHAT
HAPPENS NEXT
+ COLOUR THE
PICTURES**

