

Zacchaeus started life as a little baby boy.



**But as other boys grew bigger,
he didn't grow very much at all.**



**Perhaps people picked on him
because he was smaller.**



**So when he grew up, he was going to get his own back!
He became a TAX collector!**



**Nobody liked tax collectors.
They worked for the Roman authorities,
ruling their country.
They took your money that you owed the Romans
and then some more for themselves.**



**So little Zacchaeus became very rich
and lived in a very big house.**



Nobody liked him.



But he didn't care!



**One day he heard that Jesus was coming to his town.
They said that Jesus would have a few things to say
about the way he treated people.**



**He asked his wife, what all the fuss was about.
She told him about the miracles
that were happening were Jesus went.**



“I’ll have to see this for myself.”



But there was just one problem.



**He couldn't see anything.
Everybody was taller than him.**



So he had a good idea.



“Jesus will be going that way.”



So he ran off down the road.



He climbed a tree.



Then he hid in the branches,



to watch Jesus as he went by.



Jesus stopped underneath the tree,



and looked up at Zacchaeus.



“Hello Zacchaeus.”



“Come down. I want to visit your home.”



“He wants to visit my home, with ME?”



He came down as fast as he could.



Then he came up to Jesus.



Some in the crowd were disgusted with Jesus.



**“He’s going to the house of a Sinner.
A tax collector!”**



**Zacchaeus said to Jesus,
“Right now I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor.
I’ll pay back anybody I’ve cheated four-times the amount.”**



Jesus said to him, "Today God's forgiveness and love has come to his house, because this man, too, is now one of God's people."



“Because I’ve come to search for and save those who are lost, just like Zacchaeus.”



So they set off for Zacchaeus' home.



Jesus met his family.



They had a good meal and talked a lot about God's kingdom and how to live God's way and enjoy his blessings.



**After that day, Zacchaeus was never the same again.
He was a new man.**

