# Zacchaeus and Jesus

For this story you will need the following items:

* **Brown strip of material (the road)**
* **Jesus figure**
* **Jerusalem image**
* **Jericho image**
* **A tree**
* **6 “crowd” figures**
* **Zacchaeus Figure**

**[00:00:01] This is the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus.**

*Lay out the brown strip (the road).*

**[00:00:15] I wonder what this could be? This is all we need to be ready to start our story.**

**Every year people would go to Jerusalem at the time of Passover.**

*Lay down Jerusalem at one end of the strip.*

**[00:00:44] This is the time when the people would celebrate the way God led them through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom.**

*Take out the figure of Jesus and place him at the opposite end to Jerusalem.*

 **[00:00:57] This year, Jesus was going to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover and on his way, he was going to go through the city Jericho.**

*Lay down “Jericho” in the middle of the strip and along from it place a tree.*

**[00:01:09] There were crowds of people who wanted to see Jesus.**

*Begin putting out two rows of figures*

 **[00:01:17] He had been saying such wonderful things and doing such amazing things that all had begun to wonder who he really was.**

*Take out the Zacchaeus figure and place behind the two rows of people*

**[00:01:37] Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the city of Jericho. The people did not like tax collectors. Tax collectors would often take too much money from people and keep it for themselves.**

*Move Jesus along the brown strip, stopping in between the rows of people.*

**[00:01:57] But even Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. As he came through his hometown. But Zacchaeus was too short.**

*Move Zacchaeus figure as though he’s jumping*

**[00:02:11] He tried jumping up and down. He tried getting to the front of the crowd but the people would not let him through. So Zacchaeus decided to climb the sycamore tree. So he could have a chance to see Jesus.**

*Lift Zacchaeus onto the tree. Pick up Jesus and walk him towards the tree.*

**[00:02:37] When Jesus came. He looked straight up and called Zacchaeus by name. He said “Zacchaeus come on down. I'm going to stay at your house today”. The people were so confused by this, they did not understand why Jesus would want to stay at Zacchaeus’ house. They mumbled to themselves, “tax collectors are bad people, they take more money than they should and they keep it for themselves”.**

**[00:03:20] But Zacchaeus was so happy to hear Jesus call him by name…**

*Lift Zacchaeus down from the tree moving him towards Jesus*

**…that he came right down and ran to Jesus.**

*Move Zacchaeus and Jesus back along the strip away from Jerusalem*

**[00:03:29] And they went to his house. Zacchaeus said to Jesus. I will give half of everything I own to the poor and if I've taken too much money from someone, I will give it back to them four times. Jesus said to Zacchaeus “Today you are saved. You are right with God and you are right with people. I, the son of God, have come to find and to save everyone who is lost.”**

*Sit back and look at the story for a moment, then begin the wondering:*

**I wonder what it's like to be so short, that you can't see what you want to see?**

**I wonder how Zacchaeus felt up in the tree when Jesus called him by name?**

 **I wonder what else Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about together?**

**I wonder if it was hard for Zacchaeus to give back the money to the people four times?**

**I wonder how those people felt when they got their money back?**

**I wonder how Zacchaeus feels now that he is right with God and right with people?**

**I wonder what Jesus meant when he said he was the son of God who came to find everyone who was lost?**

*After the wondering is over, put the story away carefully into the basket.*