

BIBLE LESSONS

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LESSON 2: SMILE, GOD LOVES YOU

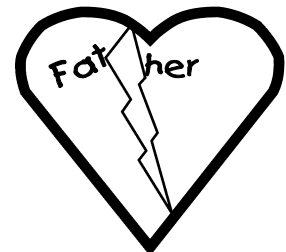
AIM: That the children know that God loves them not because of what they have done, or what they look like or how much they have, but because He made them—they are His precious children.

OPENING IDEA: Find the tallest child and the smallest child in the group. Stand them side by side. Find out their ages. Ask how tall their parents are, etc. Choose an age (say, 8), find the tallest and smallest in this age group and stand them together. Explain that if a child has both parents who are short, then he may be short also, but if one parent is tall and the other parent short, then the child could be either. Discuss the way in which we are often different in height—some grow tall early and some grow quickly in their teens. Some people worry about their height, but that doesn't help. How tall or short a person may be has nothing to do with how valuable he or she is. The most important thing is not our size, but what we are like. Whether a person is small or tall doesn't really matter to God. He love us and invites us into His family.

ACTIVITY: Small paper plates. Write the words 'God love me as I am' or 'God loves me'. Children can draw a smiling face with textas.



MEMORY VERSE: "See how much the Father loves us! His love is so great that we are called God's children." (1 John 3:1)



Each word can be written on a heart shape and then the shapes cut in jigsaw fashion. Give the shuffled pieces to the children and they must find their partner and assemble pieces together to work out the verse.

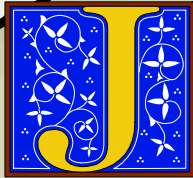
STORY: JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS (Luke 19:1-9)

PRESENTATION: This story can be told through drama with leaders dressed up for the parts, or it could be told in an exciting manner, then selected children could act it out, or use flannelgraph.

Stress points: Zacchaeus was unhappy because no one liked him. He was working for the enemy (the Romans). He was also stealing. He was short and he had no friends, but Jesus knew all about him even before He met him (He called Zacchaeus by name). Yet Jesus loved him and wanted to change his unhappy life. Zacchaeus was unpopular, no one saw anything good in him, except Jesus. Zacchaeus was willing for Jesus to come into his house and heart—note verse 6: Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Him with great joy. Jesus loves us just the same as Zacchaeus and wants to live in our heart and make us happy.

SONGS: Behold what Manner of Love
Zacchaeus was a Very Little Man
Love the Lord Your God
Put on Love Every Day

MATERIALS: Dress-up clothes
Small paper plates
Textas

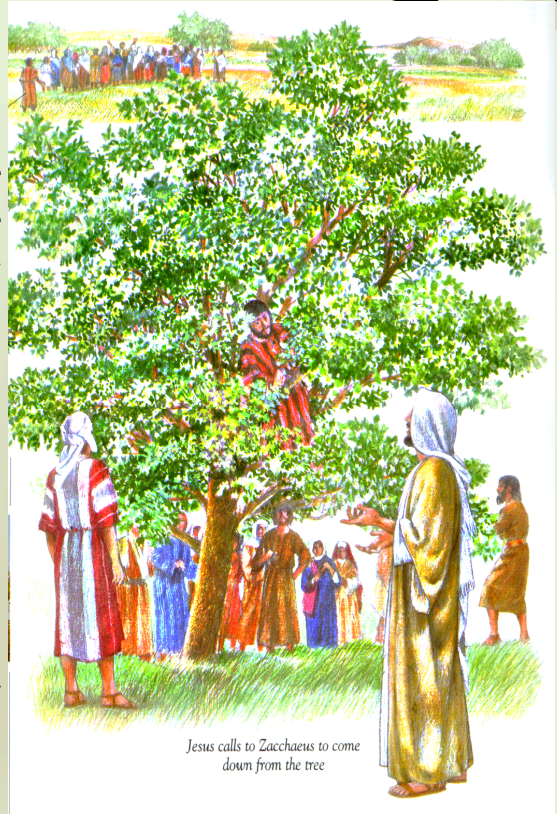


Jesus had arrived in Jericho and crowds of people came to see Him. Pushing through the crowd was a rich man, a chief tax collector called Zacchaeus. He was hated by his own people because he worked for the Romans and cheated the people out of their money by demanding they pay more taxes than they should. He was eager to see Jesus, but because he was small, he could neither force his way through the crowd, nor see over the people in front of him. Finally, in desperation, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore-fig tree that stood beside the road that was filled with people all trying to reach Jesus.

As Jesus passed beneath the tree, he stopped, looked up and saw Zacchaeus sitting on one of the branches. "Zacchaeus, come down from there! Take me to your house, I'd like to stay with you for a while."

What a surprise. How did Jesus know he was there? How did he know his name? Zacchaeus was so happy. He jumped down and ran home as fast as he could to prepare a welcome for Jesus. But others began to murmur resentfully. "How do you like that," they said, "Jesus has gone home with that big cheat!"

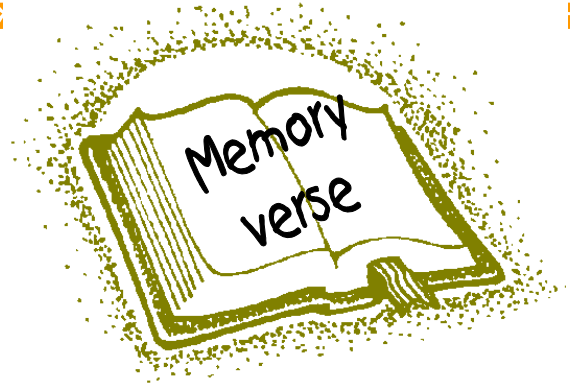
By the time Jesus arrived at the house Zacchaeus had realized Jesus loved him even though he had done lots of wrong things. Zacchaeus said to him, "I will give to the poor half of everything I own. And if I have cheated anyone, I will repay four times the amount I took dishonestly."



Jesus said, "Today a soul has been saved! Now Zacchaeus belongs to God's family. FOR THE SON OF MAN HAS COME TO FIND AND LOOK FOR THOSE WHO ARE LOST."

Luke 19:1-9

JESUS and ZACCHAEUS



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I _ _ _ _ u _ ! His I _ _ _ is so

g _ _ _ _ that we are called

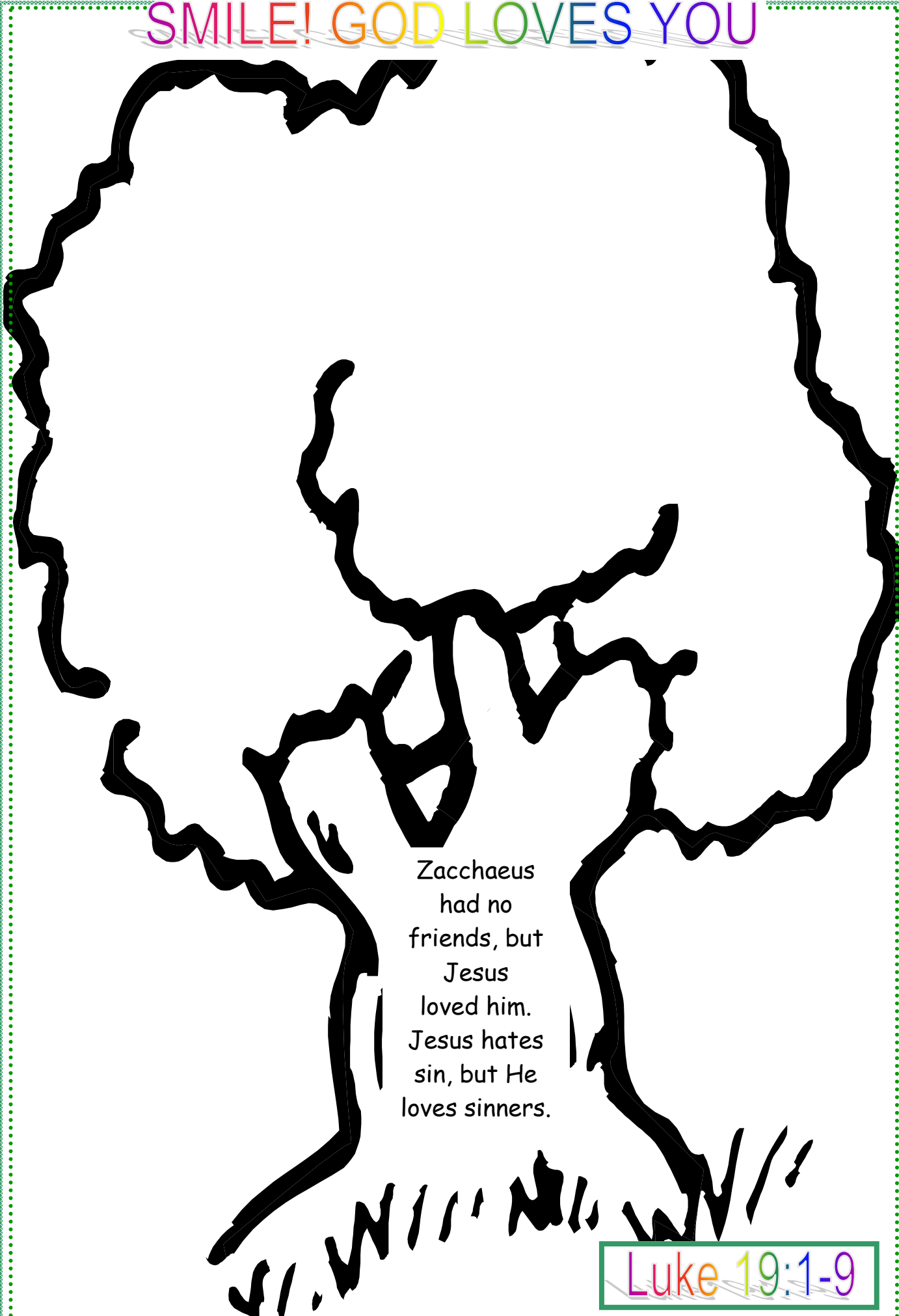
c _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of G _ _ _."

(1 John 3 v _)



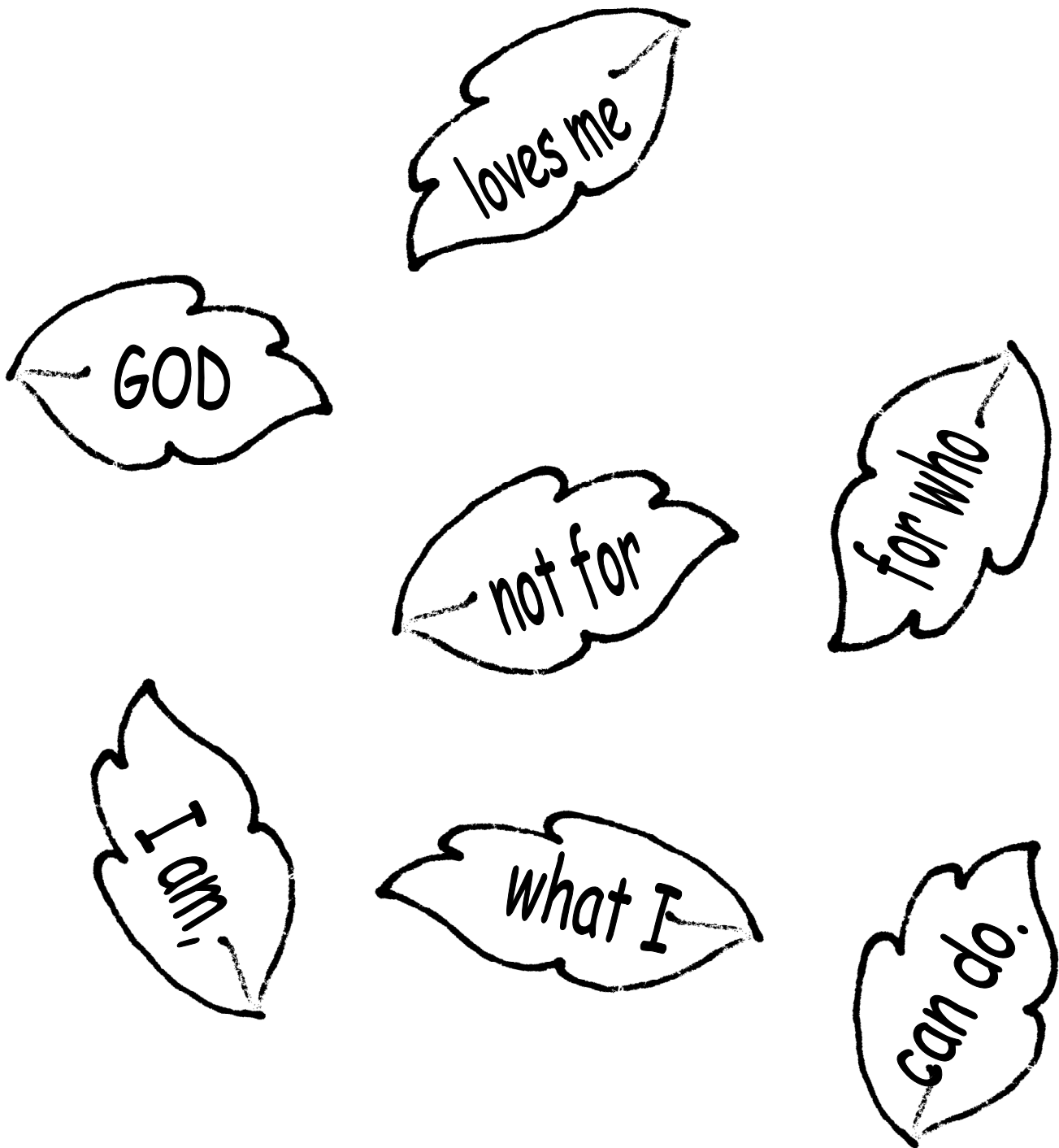
Zacchaeus came down from the tree to meet with Jesus — we, too, must sometimes come down humbly before Jesus Christ to meet with him and know who he really is.

SMILE! GOD LOVES YOU



Zacchaeus
had no
friends, but
Jesus
loved him.
Jesus hates
sin, but He
loves sinners.

Luke 19:1-9



- Copy leaves onto green paper or colour them green.
- Cut out 7 leaves and stick them onto the tree in the right order.
- Glue only the tip of each leaf onto the tree to give a three-dimensional effect.
- Read the words together.
- Cover the leaves and repeat from memory.

SMILE, GOD LOVES YOU

Use the word chart to decode the message below to find out how much God loves you.

	1	2	3	4	5
A	He	loves	of	us	much
B	how	the	that	1 John 3:1	loves
C	children	Father	God.	we	so
D	are	much	called	See	us

D4 B1 A5 B2 C2

A2 D5 A1 B5

A4 C5 D2 B3 C4

D1 D3 C1

A3 C3

B4



ANSWER: See how much the Father loves us. He loves us so much that we are called children of God (1 John 3:1).

JESUS and ZACCHAEUS



Luke 19:1-9

Write the story of Zacchaeus

in your own words.

What does it say about our

heart attitude and

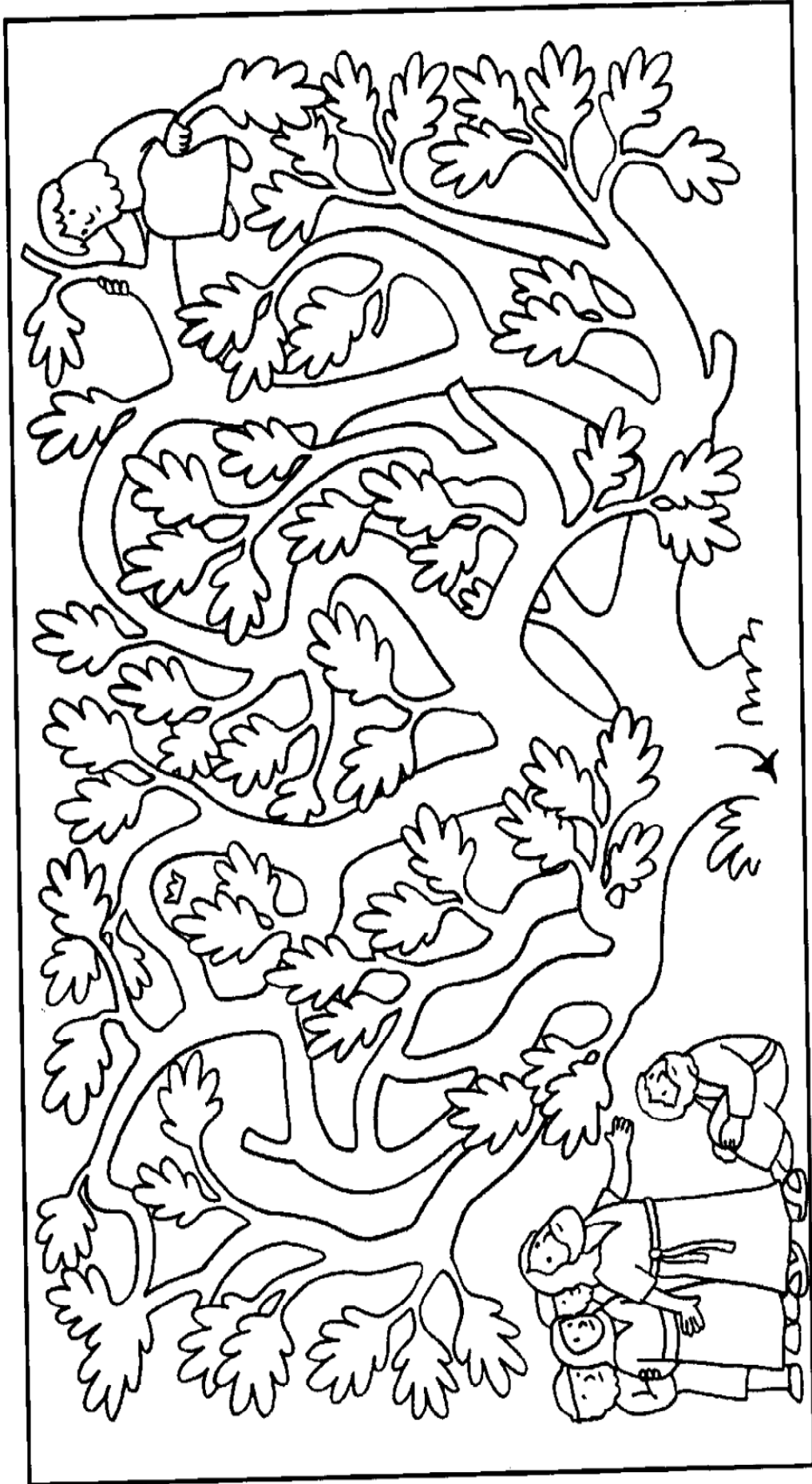
the way God sees us?

Zacchaeus, come down!



Join up the dots. What did Zacchaeus climb to have a good view of Jesus? (A s _____ free.)
 You can find this story in Luke chapter 19, verses 7-10.

Zacchaeus, come down!



Zacchaeus longed to have a look at Jesus. He was so short he climbed up a tree.
Jesus said to him, 'Hurry down. I'm coming to your house.' Help Zacchaeus climb down.
This story comes in Luke 19:1-10.

ZACCHAEUS

Luke 19:1-9



Zacchaeus was a despised, cheating tax collector. What do you learn about Jesus from his encounter with Zacchaeus?

GOD LOVES YOU, NOT FOR WHAT YOU ARE OR HAVE DONE,
BUT BECAUSE HE MADE YOU!