

English

Note: any activities involving photographing pupils must have parental permission.

Exploring a Bible story (a traditional story)

Though this story takes the form of a traditional story, Christians believe it reflects real events in the life of Jesus. The narrative form of the story does not make a judgement on its truth.

Introduction

Make siren noises with the pupils:
NEENORRNEENORR. Talk about the rescue services. Explain that today pupils are going to hear a story about someone who was rescued, but not from fire or water, but from greed and stealing. Explore what greed means, you could use the Roger Hargreaves' book: *Mr Greedy*.



Core material

Select from the following activities and rephrase to suit your pupils:

1. Tell the story using the presentation *The story of Zacchaeus*

Note: Explain what a taxman is by doing some role-play.

Select from:

- Divide the story into beginning, middle and end.
- What does the story tell us about Zacchaeus' appearance?
- Explore the characters and their behaviour and motives.
- Use hot-seating and role-play to explore the characters.
- Why do you think Christians still read this story?
- How does greed and stealing spoil life today?
- What can we learn from the story of Zacchaeus?

2. Retelling

Pupils retell the story using paper plate puppets.

3. Book making

Make the story into a book. See the following websites for lots of different book formats. For example, an accordion book of Zacchaeus www.makingbooks.com/freeprojects.shtml

4. Play

Turn the story into a play. How is a play different to a story? How is it similar?

5. Find the saying

Find the saying from the King James Bible hidden in the story and explore its meaning. 'It is better to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35) Talk about the feelings that come with giving.

Reflection

There are all sorts of rescues: from fire, from water, from being stuck on mountains, from all sorts of dangers. Jesus' name means 'The rescuer'. The story of Zacchaeus is about rescue from wrong – greed and stealing in Zacchaeus' case. Create a reflection corner with fire helmet, ambulance driver's outfit, climbing pictures, etc. Ask pupils to think about how Zacchaeus' life must have changed after he was rescued from greed and stealing.

Resources

www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/zacchaeus-meets-jesus/4465.html An animated video version of Zacchaeus

