## A SINNER IS SAVED

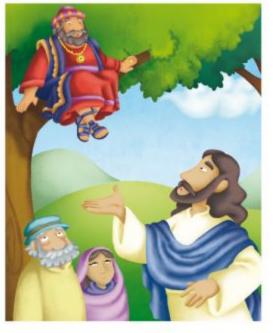
esus was walking through the city of Jericho. Many people were crowding around him.

A man named Zacchaeus saw the crowd coming. He was a rich man, but he was not an honest man. He was in charge of collecting taxes in Jericho. He asked poor people for more money than they owed and kept the extra money for himself.



★ TAXES This was money paid by people to the government for the cost of things to be built and shared, like roads. Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector in Jericho. Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus. He was curious to see him. But he was **short** and could not see above the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree. From there, he could see everything.

Soon, Jesus came walking right under the



sycamore tree. He looked up. He said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today."

Zacchaeus was amazed that Jesus would even speak to him. He climbed down from the tree and took Jesus to his house.

People who knew Zacchaeus shook their heads and grumbled. "That man is a cheater and a sinner," they said. "And Jesus is going to his home to eat with him!" ★ SHORT In Jesus' time, the average Palestinian peasant was about 5 feet 1 inch tall. So Zacchaeus must have been even shorter than that!



Zacchaeus was changed by being with Jesus. Later that day, the rich man stood up and told Jesus that he was going to give half of his money to the poor. And he was going to pay back all the people he had cheated and give them four times as much as he had taken.

Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "I have come to look for and to save people who are lost. Today you and your family have been saved."

