



# All Hands on Deck

## Jump In

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in Jericho. He was known for his wealth, his power, and his small size. Zacchaeus was not well-liked in his community because of these things. It is not surprising that the people in Jericho were upset when Jesus chose to stay with Zacchaeus. However, Zacchaeus repented and vowed to live faithfully after his encounter with Jesus. In the midst of these grand gestures, it is tempting to paint Zacchaeus as a hero. The true hero of the story is Jesus. By seeing Zacchaeus in the tree, calling out to him, and even visiting his home, Jesus makes a bold statement! God's love is extended to everyone, even those despised by society, even to tax collectors.

## Dive Deeper Together

Read Luke 19:1-10 together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.

OR

Read "Zacchaeus": Jesus was out one day walking through the city of Jericho. Zacchaeus, a local tax collector, wanted to see Jesus but could not see over the crowd because he was too short. Zacchaeus climbed up a nearby tree so that he could see Jesus. Jesus approached the tree that Zacchaeus was in and said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I must stay at your home today." Zacchaeus climbed down and took Jesus to his home. Tax collectors were known for being unfair, so the crowd was unhappy that Jesus would choose to stay with a tax collector. Zacchaeus heard what the crowd was saying about him, and because Zacchaeus was a good and faithful man he promised to give half of all that he owned to the poor and to be fair to everyone in his tax collecting. Jesus loved and believed Zacchaeus. Because of his faithfulness Jesus told Zacchaeus, "Today you have been saved."

## Grow Stronger Together

Does your family have old clothes or toys that are not used anymore? Your family can use these items to care for the less-fortunate like Zacchaeus did. Collect these items as a family to donate to your local church or charity. Doing what we can to care for the less fortunate is a way that we show our neighbors love. When we love our neighbors, we are loving Jesus.

## Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for seeing and loving us, even the smallest of us! Help us to be more aware of the needs of the community around us. Amen.

March 12

Unit 1: Jesus Shows Love

**BV:** I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you must also love each other. (John 13:34)

**AP:** Jesus shows us how to love each other.

To Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

The games in the Deep Blue Adventures app are awesome! Download the app at [www.deepbluekids.com/app](http://www.deepbluekids.com/app).

