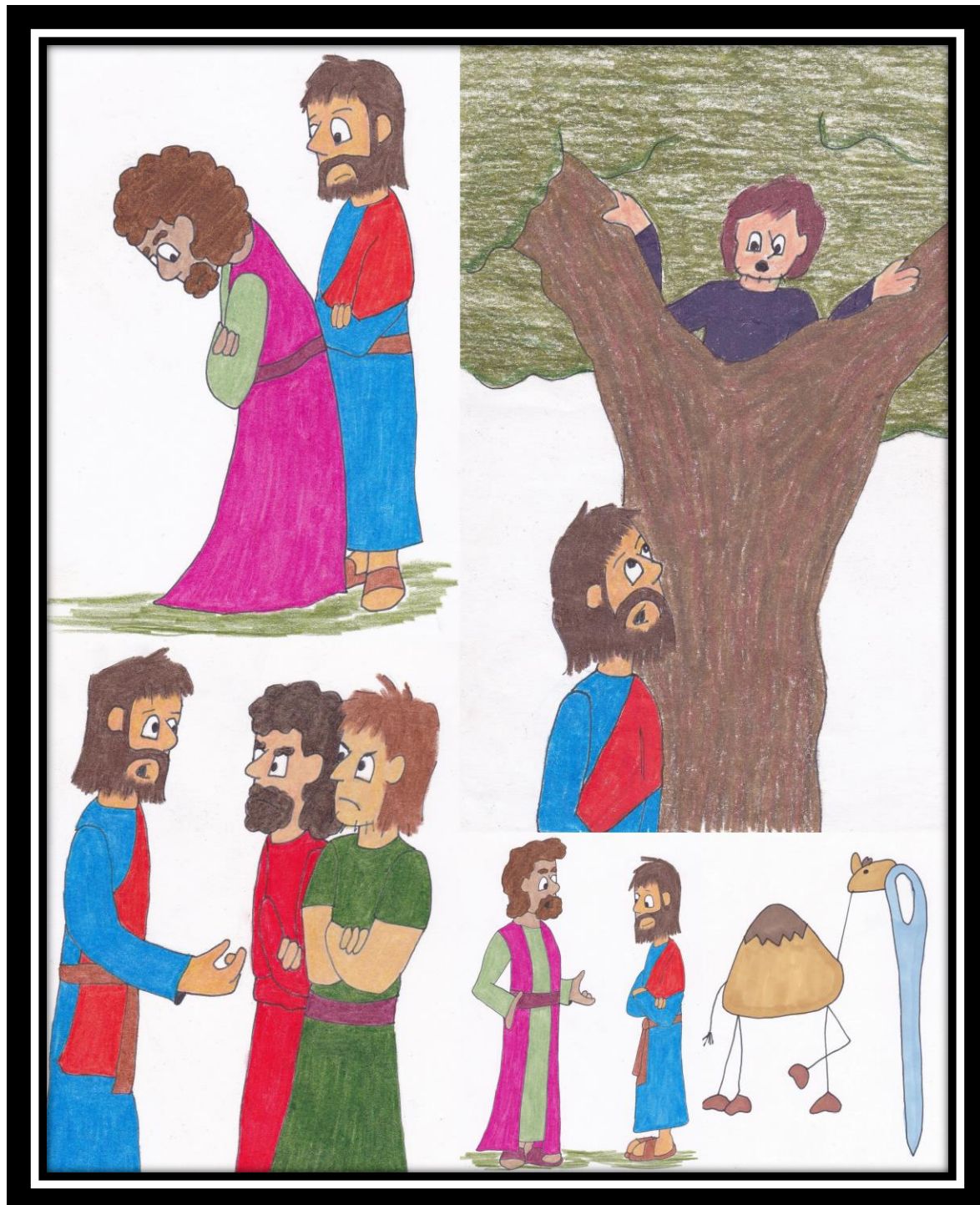
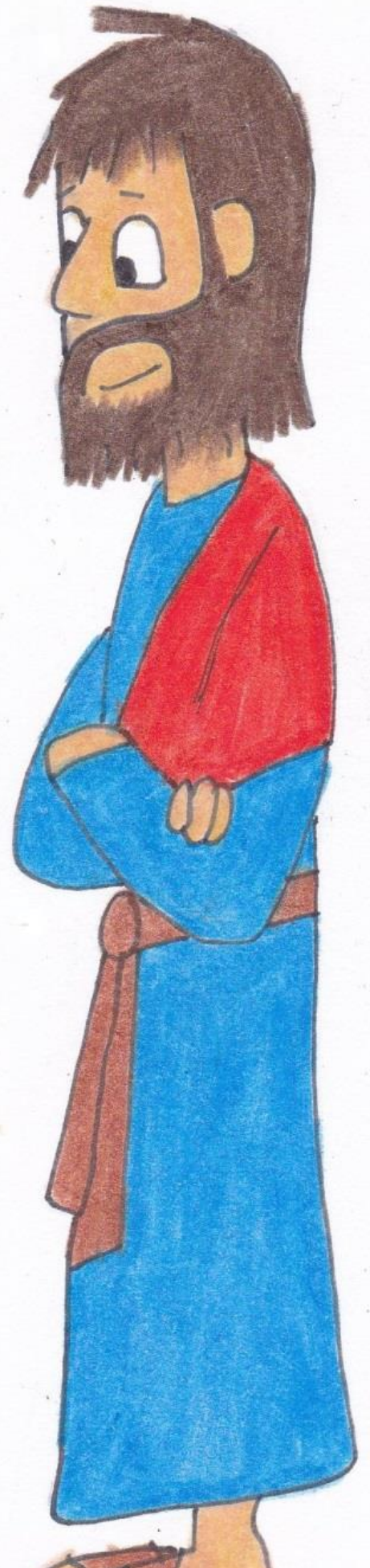
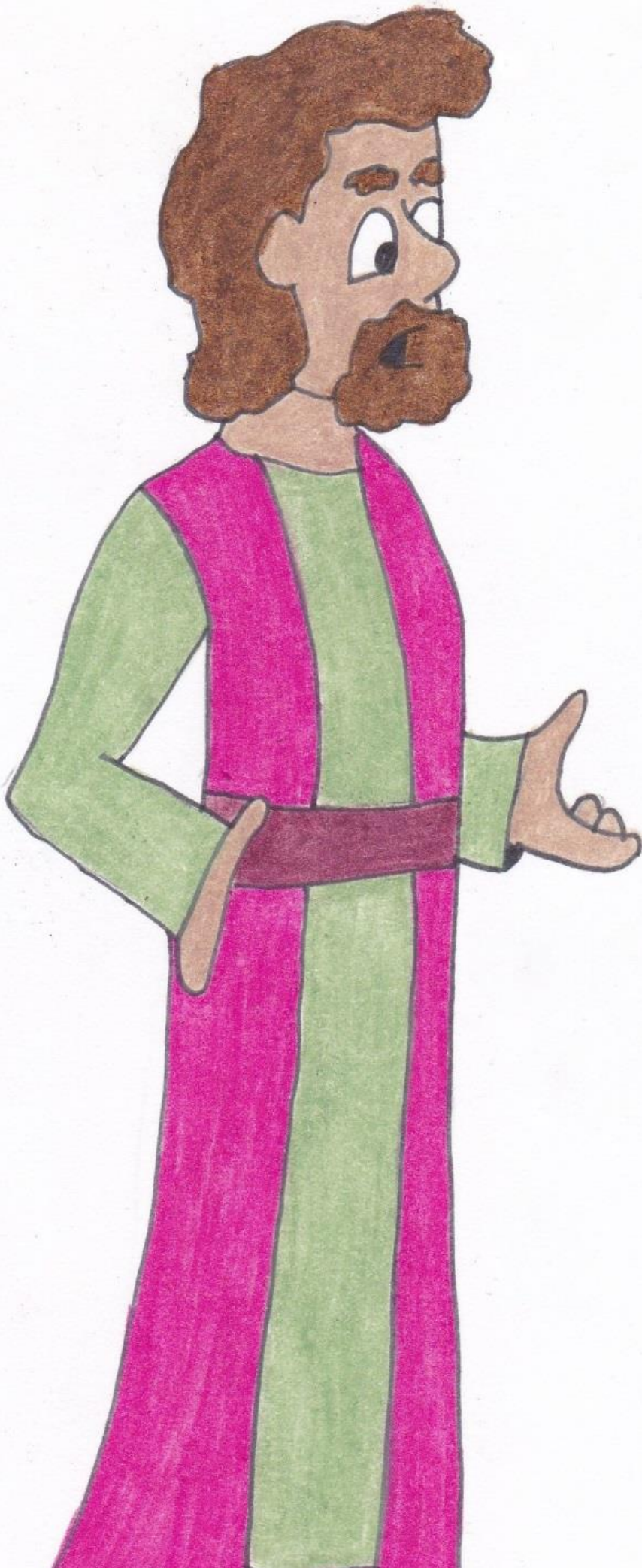


The Rich Young Ruler and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10 and Mark 10:17-27





Jesus was travelling thru the land, when a young man burst thru the crowd and threw himself at Jesus' feet. "Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?"

Jesus looked at the man, dressed in fine clothes, clean and shinning, his hair neat and wearing fine rings on his hands. "Why do you call me Good, no one is Good except God?" asked Jesus.

Jesus continued, "You know the commandments, do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not lie, honor your parents."



Rising, flushed with pride, the man answered, “Yes, Teacher, I’ve kept all of these since I was a child.”

Jesus looked at him with love, “You only need one thing. Sell all you have, give it to the poor and follow me.”

The man looked at Jesus shocked. His face fell, his head bowed, he left sad. He was a very rich man.

Jesus watched him leave, shaking his head, he said “How hard it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.”



Jesus' disciples began to whisper to each other and Jesus smiled.

“It is easier for a camel to go thru the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God,” he said.

The disciples whispering grew louder. Finally one of them went to Jesus, “Umm, Teacher, then can anyone be saved?”

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible,” Jesus replied.



Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector in the area, and rich in money and power. He heard Jesus was coming to Jericho and really wanted to see him. But, Zacchaeus was a wee little man, to put it bluntly he was short.

So he climbed up in a tree to look over the crowds that surrounded Jesus. To his great surprise, Jesus walked right up to his tree.



“Zacchaeus come down, for I am going to eat with you today,” said Jesus smiling.

Zacchaeus scrambled down, bowing low, “Please come with me, it is a great honor.”

But the crowds were unhappy.

They began to grumble to each other, “He’s a tax collector!”

“He cheated me.”

“He took all my mother’s money, throwing her out in the street”

“Jesus is going to the house of a Sinner!!!”



Zacchaeus turned to Jesus, “Lord, today I will give half of my possessions to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I’ll repay them four times.”

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to your house.”

Turning to the crowd, Jesus spoke. “This man is also a child of Abraham. This is why I am here, to save the lost.”

Questions

Younger Kids

1. Is being rich wrong?
2. Why did the rich young ruler leave sad?
When there were problems in his life where did the ruler turn for help?
3. Why was the crowd mad that Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' house? Do we sometimes let jealousy make us mad at people?

Middle Kids

1. Is being rich wrong? Look at what Jesus said when the disciples asked (Mark 10:24-27), can the rich save themselves? Can the poor?
2. What do you think, was the one thing the rich young ruler lacked? What did he depend on?
3. The crowd grew angry when they heard that Jesus was going to Zacchaeus' house. Why do you think they were angry? Have you ever been angry when someone was forgiven?

Have you ever seen someone get in trouble for something their friends did?

4. Who in the stories needed Jesus?

Older Guys

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. What did Zacchaeus do to see Jesus? What obstacles do you allow to keep you from church? Are they excuses or true obstacles?
2. Read Luke 19:8. What is Zacchaeus' response to being called a sinner? How did you respond the last time you were called a sinner? Were you self-righteous? Or were you repentant?
3. Read Mark 10:21. What one thing would you have trouble leaving?

Activities

1. Attempt to hold Jell-O/Oatmeal in your hands. Which can hold more; one tightly clutched or one held face up and open?
2. Make a tree for Zacchaeus to be in using a paper plate, paint, craft sticks, and markers.

- a. Paint your paper plate green.
- b. Color the first craft stick brown for the tree trunk, the second tree trunk color to be Zacchaeus.
- c. Cut two slits in the tree and slip Zacchaeus into them.
- d. Glue the tree trunk onto the back of your tree.



Online

1. Zacchaeus craft on paper-
<http://creativepreschoolresources.wordpress.com/2012/02/08/bible-story/>
2. Zacchaeus craft 3d (site is in Portuguese)-
<http://coisasquegosto.com/2011/02/22/minhas-historias-biblicas/>
3. Zacchaeus games and snack ideas-
<http://www.whenyourise.com/2012/03/from-cradle-to-cross-zacchaeus.html>
4. Rich young ruler games and activities-
http://www.calvary-kids-pages.com/Mark-rich_young_ruler.html
5. Sunday School lesson for Rich Young Ruler-
http://www.newchurch.org/materials/educational/journey-programs/pause-make-space-for-god/Pause_Week-5_Level-B.pdf