

God Gives Everyone Life

Based on Acts 17:16–34

Preparation

Props

- Signs for *Paul, Philosopher 1, Philosopher 2*
- Two or three pieces of statuary that are not religious

Costume Ideas

Note: *Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children’s participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels.

Setting

Designate two different spaces in your session room—one for the scene in the public square and one for the Aeropagus/preaching space. If your space is limited, do the drama in two separate scenes in a place where all can see.

Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE3.
- Plan how to use the space where you do your sessions for the drama.
- If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes.
- Organize the class into two groups:
 - Group 1 will include those with speaking parts.
 - Group 2 will include those who do not have speaking parts but form the crowd.

Select children to play the parts of:

- 2 narrators
- Paul
- 2 philosophers

Give directions to each group.

- Show the children who are in the public square scene where to stand and move. Remind them not to speak aloud unless they have a speaking part.
- If necessary, go over the speaking parts with the children who are playing the parts of the narrators, Paul, and the two philosophers.

Dramatization

Paul is walking around the public square looking at the statues. He is shaking his head. He looks angry. The crowd in the background is talking in groups. The two philosophers are in the crowd.

Narrator 1: Paul was alone in the city of Athens. While he was walking around he saw the idols that the people of Athens worshipped. He wanted the people to know about Jesus and the one true God.

Paul walks over to a group of people. The two philosophers are in the group.

Narrator 2: Paul was trying to tell the people about Jesus but they did not understand. They thought Paul was talking about a foreign god.

Philosopher 1: *(to the crowd)* What is this man trying to tell us?

Philosopher 2: Is he talking about another god? Who is this Jesus?

Narrator 1: The people invited Paul to come and teach them about Jesus.

The philosophers take Paul to the preaching site. The crowd follows. Paul faces the crowd. The crowd may stand or sit.

Paul: People of Athens! I want to tell you about the one true God so that you can come to know him. He made the world and all that is in it. He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth. He gives everyone life and breath. He made everything, the sun and moon and stars, the seasons of the year.

It is not difficult to find him. He is near. We live and move and have our being in him.

We are his children. God made us to be one family. He wants us to turn to him with love. He even sent his own Son, Jesus, to tell us how much he loved us and to show us how to live.

Narrator 2: Some of the Greeks believed what Paul told them and became followers of Jesus. Among them were the two philosophers.

The two philosophers move over to Paul with two or three others. The rest of the crowd stays where they are.

Zacchaeus

Based on Luke 19:1–10

Preparation

Props

- Sign for *sycamore tree*
- A sturdy stool or stepladder

Costume Ideas

Note: Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children’s participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels.

Setting

The crowd is in the center of the space. Jesus and his disciples enter from the left and exit with Zacchaeus into the right.

Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE6.
- Plan how to use the space where you do your sessions for the drama.
- If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes.
- Organize the class into two groups:
 - Group 1 will include Jesus and his disciples.
 - Group 2 will include Zacchaeus and the crowd.

Select children to play the parts of:

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Zacchaeus (should be a shorter person)
- Person 1
- The crowd

Give directions to each group.

- Show both groups of children where to stand and move. Remind them not to speak aloud unless they have a speaking part.
- If necessary, go over the speaking parts with the children who are playing the parts of the narrator, Jesus, and Zacchaeus.

Dramatization

A crowd is waiting for Jesus to appear. Zacchaeus is standing in the crowd.

Narrator: One day Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. The crowds gathered to see him. He did not plan to stop there.

Jesus and his friends move toward the crowd. As they get close, the crowd starts waving and yelling. Zacchaeus is jumping up and down to see Jesus, but he cannot see. He climbs on the "sycamore tree."

Narrator: On his way through the town, Jesus looked up into the sycamore tree. There in the branches was a man! It was Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector who wanted to see Jesus but he was too short.

Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.

Zacchaeus comes down. He shakes hands with Jesus. He is very happy to see him. Jesus, Zacchaeus, and the disciples start to move toward his house.

Narrator: The crowd was not happy. They grumbled.

Person 1: Is he going to stay at the house of a sinner?

Narrator: The people in the crowd did not think Jesus should be around sinners. When Zacchaeus heard their grumbling, he turned to Jesus and said:

Zacchaeus: I will give half of my possessions to the poor. If I have taken anything from anyone, I will pay them back four times more.

Jesus: Zacchaeus, today God's forgiveness has come to your house.

Zacchaeus, Jesus, and the disciples move off "stage."

The Great Commandment

Based on Luke 10:25–28

Preparation

Props

- 2–3 signs for *Pharisees*

Costume Ideas

Note: *Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children’s participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels.

Setting

This is a simple setting that can be managed in one space.

Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE9.
- Plan how to use the space where you do your sessions for the drama.
- If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes.
- Organize the class into two groups.

Group 1 will include those with speaking parts.

Group 2 will include those who do not have speaking parts but form the crowd.

Select children to play the parts of:

- 2 narrators
- Scholar of the law
- Jesus
- 2–3 Pharisees

Give directions to each group.

- Show the children who are in the crowd where to stand and how to show expression. Remind them not to speak aloud unless they have a speaking part.
- If necessary, go over the speaking parts with the children who are playing the parts of the narrators, the scholar of the law, and Jesus.

Dramatization

The crowd is standing around and listening to Jesus who is teaching. Most of the crowd is paying attention. The Pharisees are talking to each other.

Narrator 1: One day when Jesus was teaching, some of the Pharisees who were scholars of the law came to listen. They wanted to test Jesus. They wanted to see if he really knew the law.

One of the Pharisees waves his hand and interrupts Jesus.

Scholar of the law: Teacher, what must I do to be happy with God forever?

Narrator 2: Jesus knew that the man was trying to trick him. So he answered with a question of his own.

Jesus: When you study God's law, what does it tell you?

Scholar of the law: You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus: You are right. Do this and you will be happy with God forever.