

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Luke 19: 1-10

NEW WORDS

thief fraud salvation Zaccheus unfair dealing tax-gatherer

'Il trade you this beautiful marble for your softball?"

id you ever say something like that to a friend? Did your friend trade with you? Who got the better toy? Did you think that was stealing? Yes, it was stealing because you wanted to get more than you gave. You were being unfair to your friend.

Were you sorry afterward for cheating your friend? Did you tell your friend you were sorry? Did you ask Jesus to forgive you? If you did, Jesus did forgive you. Jesus wants us to give back anything we have taken unfairly. Did you give it back?

n today's Bible lesson we learn about unfair dealing and fraud. An unfair trade is one kind of fraud. We learn about another kind of fraud in the Bible lesson. 47 Z accheus was a tax-gatherer. Maybe you have heard the story about a short man named Zaccheus, who climbed a tree to see Jesus. But that little man was a thief. He gathered taxes for the government. Some tax-gatherers got rich by taking more money than they should and keeping the extra money for themselves. Zaccheus was that kind of tax-gatherer.

Z accheus heard Jesus was coming to town. He climbed up into a tree to see Jesus. Do you think Jesus saw him? Yes, he did. And Jesus knew all about Zaccheus.

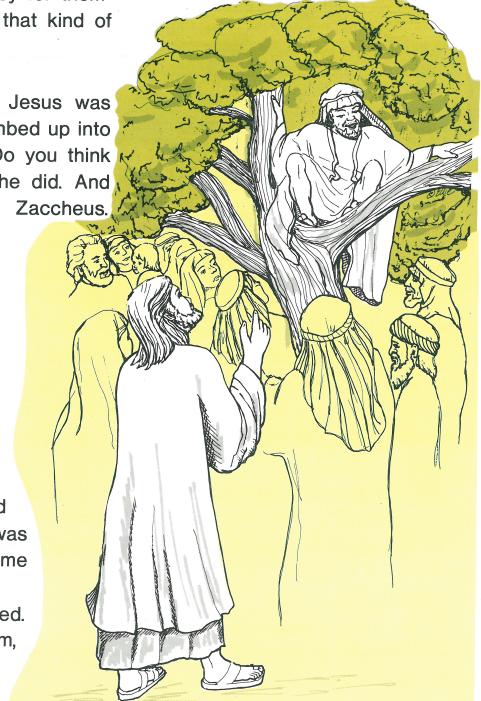
Jesus knew Zaccheus was a thief.

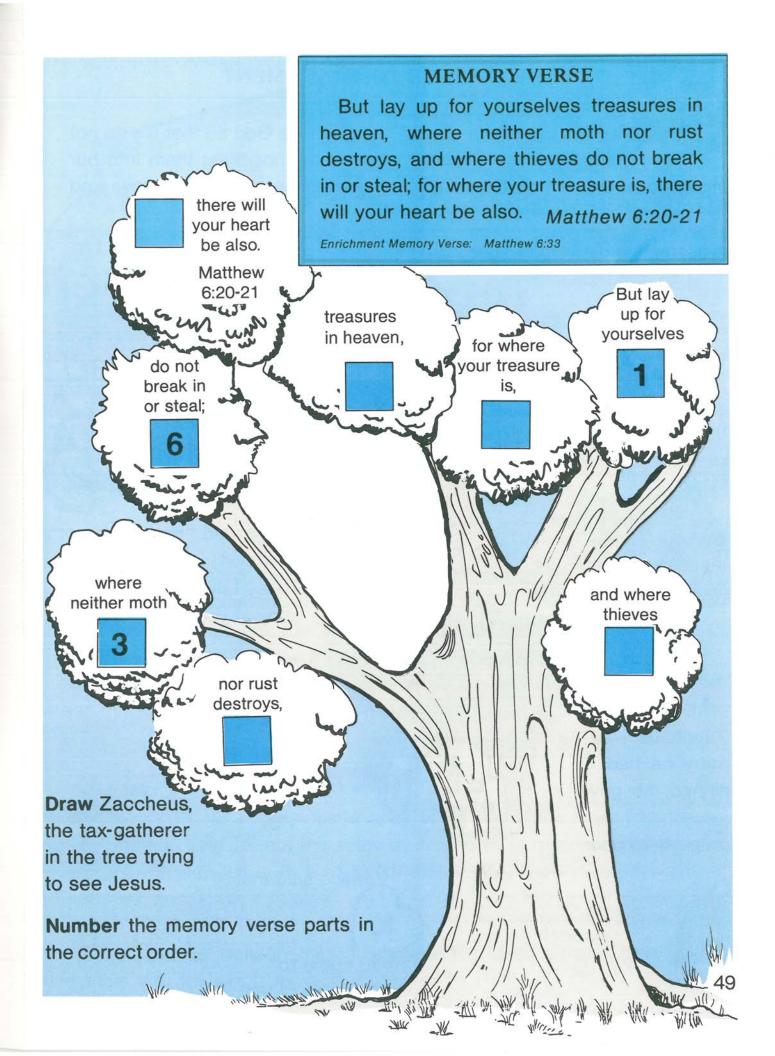
But Jesus loved Zaccheus. He said, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

Z accheus hurried and came down. He was glad to have Jesus come to his house. Zaccheus was sorry he had sinned. After Jesus forgave him, Zaccheus gave away

half of his property to poor people. He promised to pay back the people he had cheated.

Zaccheus received Jesus as his Savior. Jesus said, "Today <u>salvation</u> has come to this house." Jesus came to find and save everyone who sins. He came to save you too.





THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

protect his property and living.	
Unscramble the words. Then rea	nd the story.
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