



# 9. Seeing God's way.....

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on some important words of Jesus in the 'Sermon on the Mount', which Christians call the 'Beatitudes'. We are using some of the wider themes in Jesus' words to help us to think about the attitudes we have towards each other – and the ways in which your own school's vision and values helps to shape this into your community.



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Many of the qualities expressed in Jesus' words will be familiar values for your school community, so we encourage you to link each week's collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values. Today we are thinking about Jesus' words about forgiveness. We are going to revisit a story that we used in the Spring term theme this year, about Jesus and a woman who needed forgiveness. You will have your own school language for talking about forgiveness, so do use what works best for you!

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **This week you will need.....** Props for the reflective story: at least 20 gold coins in a small bag; two figures – one smaller than the other (e.g. Lego Duplo® figures work well); some small play food items; a large costume jewellery ring – the more dazzling the better!; a tree (e.g. from small world play items)
- **The story script in the assembly is told in a slow, reflective style, using objects.** If this is not possible for your setting, then use the pictures at the very end of the PowerPoint instead (slides 12-20). They will fit with the script as well, but are less effective in terms of engaging children.
- **You will also need to select an optical illusion** from slide 3 to use with children- we can't use the images for copyright reasons, but you can download these for use in your own school.
- **There are also some ideas for reflective activities / ideas to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** this week, you will need a pair of dress-up glasses, or real glasses with the lenses removed, or card versions made using the template on p5. Baker Ross stock craft versions as well: [Glasses Card Blanks \(bakerross.co.uk\)](http://Glasses Card Blanks (bakerross.co.uk)) You will also need some paper hearts and some pens.

### Gathering:

**Slide 1: Use these gathering words, which will be the same each week.**



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **ALL: May our attitudes make our school community a happy place today.**

### Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** As you are expecting by now, we are going to be hearing about some more words from the Beatitudes, but first, a little puzzle for you.....
- **Slide 3:** Show the optical illusion image (links included in the PowerPoint). Ask children to tell you what they can see (two heads / a vase or rabbit / duck, depending which you have chosen). Explain how the image works if there are children who can't see both.
- 'Sometimes it's difficult to see things from another, different point of view, especially where other people are concerned. We all have people in our lives who we get on with really well – and we also have people who we find difficult to get on with.
- **Slide 4:** Jesus' words from the Beatitudes [*show them*] talk about being 'pure in heart', which is a tricky phrase to try to explain! Jesus explained elsewhere that this is to do with having a heart that is open, honest and truthful, not hidden from God, which means that someone can see the world as God does.
- **Slide 5: A change of heart**  
Maybe it's a bit easier to see what this looks like in another story, about someone who was able to do this for the first time. As you listen, see if you can spot who has a change of heart – and sees things differently. [*use script & props on p.3*]



- **So who had a change of heart and saw things differently?**
- That's right, it was Zacchaeus. In this story, we see how Jesus was 'pure in heart' and saw Zacchaeus not as a cheat and a thief, but as someone who needed a friend. Jesus' act of friendship changed Zacchaeus' life forever, and as a result Zacchaeus found that he was seeing things God's way for the first time – almost like putting on a new pair of glasses [put on glasses]. Zacchaeus also found that his change of heart in following Jesus meant he had to behave differently in the future. He could see how he'd cheated the people of Jericho – and he knew that he had to do something about it. His actions must've come as a huge surprise to the people of the town!

#### Slide 6: Responding and words for worship

Let's think together now about Jesus' words in the Beatitudes about being pure in heart – and about the story of Zacchaeus



....I wonder what Jesus saw when he looked into Zacchaeus' heart?....

.....I wonder what made Zacchaeus change?....

....I wonder what we can learn from this story about being 'pure in heart'?....and how being pure in heart might help someone to see God and what's important to him?....

**Slide 7:** This week comes with a challenge for us all. The people in the story found it hard to accept that Zacchaeus could be anything other than a bad person, because of his past actions, but Jesus chose to see something different. I wonder if there are people in our own lives like this? Maybe people who we don't find it easy to get along with? I wonder if we might be able to see them with 'new eyes' (put on glasses!) and find some good things about them, like Jesus saw when he looked at Zacchaeus....

I'm going to use some words in a prayer now, to draw our thoughts to a close and ask God for his help to be 'pure in heart' so that we can see things as he does. If you'd prefer to be still with your own thoughts, then please do that instead....

#### Slide 8: Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the story of Zacchaeus and what it shows us about seeing people as you do. We all have people we know who are difficult to get along with. Please help us to see them as you do, to value them as you do and to live well together.

#### Slide 9: Amen

Sending: Slide 10

*Leader:* As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead....

*All:* May we be 'pure in heart'.



To listen to / sing:

[The Kindness Song](#) or [Let's be kind](#) (NBD)



#### Slide 11: Reflective areas

You will need some role play glasses in your reflective area today – or print and cut out card versions from the template on p. 5. Baker Ross stock card versions as well: [Glasses Card Blanks \(bakerross.co.uk\)](#) Put on the glasses and think about who or what you might want to see differently. You might want to pray that God will help you to see things as he does. Take a paper heart and write down three good things about that person (NB don't write their name – keep it private) Do you feel differently about that person now you have thought about the good things about them?



## A change of heart

Our story is about a man... a very little man [*stand the figure on the table*]..... a lonely man.....Zacchaeus was his name, and he lived in a big city called Jericho. Zacchaeus was a tax collector – his job was to collect the money that the people of Jericho owed to the Romans, who ruled the world at that time....And everyone hated him for it – because no-one likes to have to pay their bills!

.....

The trouble was, Zacchaeus rather liked money [*place several of the gold coins*], and he used to demand more than he should so that he could keep the extra for himself [*add two extra coins to the pile*]..... And as he got richer, the people of Jericho hated him all the more and soon money became the most important thing in his life....

.....

Being rich meant that he could buy all that his heart desired – and he often did [*place ring on table*]. But as time went by, he realised that he was actually not happy at all. He had many possessions and lots of money, but they couldn't make him truly happy..... [*add double-sided card showing sad face*]

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Then one day, Jesus came to town. [*stand Jesus figure*] Wherever Jesus went, he found friends in unusual places. People called him 'the friend of sinners' .....and Zacchaeus desperately wanted to meet him. There were crowds of people everywhere, but no-one would let him through to see Jesus as he passed. Zacchaeus couldn't see over their heads, so he climbed up a tree [*place tree onto table*]

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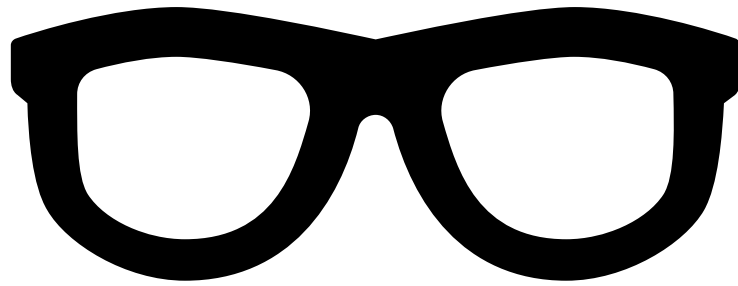
As Jesus passed by the tree, he looked up and spoke directly to Zacchaeus. 'Come down from there, because I'm coming to eat at your house today' [*place play food on table*]

.....

The next day, the people of Jericho couldn't believe the change in Zacchaeus. He visited every person he'd cheated. He gave back not just the money that he'd demanded from them [*take the two coins back from the pile on table*].....but four times what he'd taken – from his own savings [*take small bag & remove the coins and add them to the pile*] And he also gave half of all he owned to the poor.

But more than that – finally Zacchaeus was happy – truly happy [*turn sad face round to show happy face*] because he'd found something that was worth more than money.....and for the first time, he had seen what was really important to God.





*...Jesus said to the people 'Those who are pure in heart are truly happy. They will see God.'*



**It's difficult to always think kind, positive thoughts about other people. There are some people that we find it hard to think good things about. Who is that person for you?**



**Put on the glasses and think about how you might try to see that person differently....**



**If you want to, take a paper heart shape and write down some good things that you can think about that person. Don't write their name – keep that private! Do you feel differently about that person now you have thought about the good things about them?**



