ENGLISH CORNER

The Story – Jesus and Zacchaeus the Tax Collector *(Luke 19:1-10)*

End of Financial Year
This week is the end of the financial year. In all the shops, there are the end of financial year sales. Businesses are busy getting ready to put in their tax returns.

Hot Topics **Jesus**

1. How much tax do you pay in your country? Do you have different tax rates?
2. Why do we pay taxes? Do you think tax rates should be higher or lower? Why or why not?
3. Australia has very strict tax laws. People are worried about 'The Tax Man'. A popular saying in English is: *One thing certain in life is death and taxes*. What does this mean?

Today's Lesson…
Today's story is from the Bible and is about a Taxman and Jesus. The time of this story is around 2000 years ago and is set in Jericho, a town near Jerusalem in the country of Israel. At that time, Israel was ruled by a foreign country, Rome. The Romans made the Tax Collectors take a lot of money from the Israeli people to give to the Roman government. The Tax Collectors were seen as traitors to their own people. The Tax Collectors were friends with the enemy!

Vocabulary

Sinner: having done bad or wrong things against God.

Grumbling: Complaining about something. Not happy.

Traitor: Someone who betrays another.

Passing through: Going through, travelling through.

Crowd: many people.

Cheated: not being honest, tricking someone.

Belongings: Things that belong to you.

Break your group into four. Give each group member one of the following parts: Narrator, Jesus, Grumbling person, and Zacchaeus the tax collector.

1. Read through once. Check for new vocabulary and understanding.

2. Read the story again this time acting out the story to check for understanding and practice your listening skills.

The Story (*act out while the story is being told)*

Narrator: Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho. There was a tax collector named Zacchaeus, who was very rich. He was trying to see Jesus (because he had heard about the amazing things Jesus had said and done) but he was a small man and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree to see Jesus. When Jesus got there, Jesus looked up and said:

Jesus: Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to visit your house today.

Narrator: Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed Jesus with great joy. (Pause)

All the people who saw that Jesus was going to the tax collector's house started grumbling and complaining.

Grumbling Person: This man Zacchaeus is a bad man, a sinner! And Jesus is going home to eat with him.

Narrator: Later that day, Zacchaeus stood up and said to Jesus:

Zacchaeus: Jesus! I will give half of my belongings to the poor. And now I'll pay back four times to everyone I have cheated.

Narrator: Jesus said to Zacchaeus:

Jesus: Today you and your family have been saved. I, Jesus have come to look for and save people who are lost.

The teacher will now interview each person.

1. (to the grumbling person): What did you think about the tax collector? Why?
2. (to the tax collector): How did you feel when Jesus said he was coming to your house to stay? What happened to you?
3. (to Jesus): Why did you stop and stay at Zacchaeus' house?

Discussion: (in threes)

- What have you learnt from this story today?
- What have you learnt about the Tax collecter? The grumbling man? And Jesus?
- Zacchaeus' life changed dramatically after he met Jesus. Has there been any person who has changed your life dramatically? *Talk in threes*.