

## Dramatic Readings

*They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly,  
and they gave the sense,  
so that the people understood the reading.  
Nehemiah 8:8*

Help your students capture the excitement of the Bible stories and express it as they read them aloud. Dramatic readings provide a way for the children to enter into the stories and develop good reading skills as they make a determined effort to bring the words to life.

Start by reading through the story and working out any vocabulary and pronunciation problems. Then talk about the characters and how they feel as the story develops. Encourage the children to put this feeling into their reading without overdoing it. Have them imagine that they are the actual characters as they read their parts. Then do the reading together and make it live!

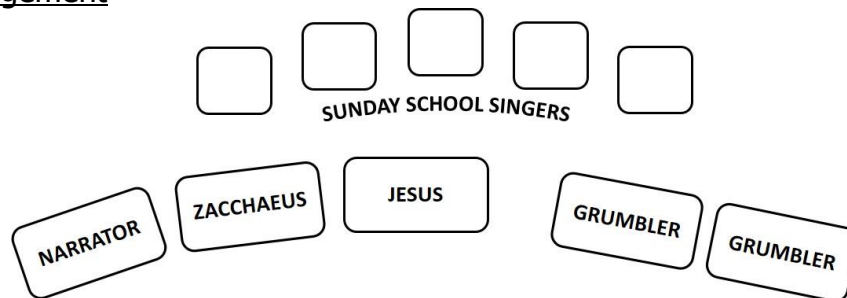
A modern version is used in the script. Props and actions can be optional.

### Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

#### Readers

Narrator, Jesus, Grumblers, Zacchaeus.

#### Seating arrangement



#### Props

Four chairs plus a high stool (for Zacchaeus to sit on), large Bible name tags for all readers.

#### The reading

**Narrator:** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

*(Luke 19:1-4)*

(Action: Zacchaeus runs in and climbs on the stool.)

**Narrator:** And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, *(Luke 19:5a)*

**Jesus:** "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." *(Luke 19:5b)*

**Narrator:** So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. *(Luke 19:6)*

(Action: Zacchaeus and Jesus look at each other, join hands, and swing them joyfully.)

**Narrator:** And when they saw it, they all grumbled, *(Luke 19:7a)*

**Grumbler 1:** "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." *(Luke 19:7b)*

(Action: Grumbler 1 points at Jesus.)

**Grumbler 2:** "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." *(Luke 19:7b)*

(Action: Grumbler 2 points at Jesus.)

**Grumblers (together):** "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." *(Luke 19:7b)*

(Action: Both grumblers point at Jesus.)

**Narrator:** And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, *(Luke 19:8a)*

**Zacchaeus:** "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." *(Luke 19:8b)*

**Narrator:** And Jesus said to him, *(Luke 19:9a)*

**Jesus:** "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." *(Luke 19:9b-10)*

**Sunday School Singers (and all participants):**

**Zacchaeus**

Now Zacchaeus was a very little man,  
And a very little man was he.  
He climbed up into a sycamore tree,  
For the Saviour he wanted to see.  
And when the Saviour passed that way,

He looked into the tree.  
And said:  
Now Zacchaeus, you come down (This line is spoken)  
For I'm coming to your house today.

Concluded.

Words and music for "Zacchaeus" can be found at:  
[http://www.sermons4kids.com/zacchaeus\\_lead\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.sermons4kids.com/zacchaeus_lead_sheet.pdf)  
<http://www.cssu.org.uk/pdf/infant/IN060.pdf>

Sound tracks for this and many other children's Bible songs can be purchased online and downloaded from <http://weesing.com/Books-Music/Wee-Sing-Bible-Songs>.