



## Storytelling Script

The script is read/told by a narrator, with two volunteers standing up front to represent the blind beggar and Zacchaeus as their story is told. The narrator should recount the two stories in a dramatic fashion, bringing them to life.

It is suggested that the narrator might like to have a 'story sack' from which they bring out the following items as they go along.

- **BSG24 Blind Beggar Image** and **BSG24 Zacchaeus Image** printed separately onto A4 or A3 card
- A round bowl, preferably pottery
- A sleep mask
- A party hooter or party popper
- A brightly coloured scarf or stole
- A large chair or a pair of ladders
- A small bag of money
- Chocolate coins, if available. If not, throw out some pennies.

### Narrator

One town called Jericho. The same community, the same streets, and quite possibly some of the same people in the crowds. Yet two different stories. And two different people. As we explore their two stories, I would like you to listen and try to spot the differences between them.

As Jesus approached the town of Jericho, he came across a blind man sitting by the roadside, begging. **Ask for a volunteer to come out. Hand them BSG24 Blind Beggar Image to hold.**

Maybe you have seen a beggar before, sitting on the pavement? Many sit there all day in the hope that someone will come by and throw them a few coins. **Bring out a begging bowl from the story sack and hand to your volunteer.**

But this beggar wasn't just a beggar – he was a blind beggar. He couldn't see. **Pull out a sleep mask and invite your volunteer to put it on.**

This was an added problem. He was blind as well as poor. He couldn't see to work. He couldn't see to walk. He couldn't see the clouds in the sky or the faces of people around him. Life was hard. If his bowl was empty at the end of the day, he perhaps wouldn't have had anything to eat. He was to be pitied.

The blind beggar had to depend on other people. He had to depend on his senses to find out what was going on. Suddenly he became aware of a crowd round about him. **Ask the volunteer to move so they are standing among your congregation.** He sensed their excitement. He asked them what was happening, and they told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by!” **Ask your congregation to shout this out. You may want to try it a couple of times.**

The crowd was excited, as news of Jesus had spread far and wide. In another village, Jesus had recently healed ten men who had a dreaded skin disease. Maybe... just maybe... if Jesus had healed them, maybe he could heal him too! The blind beggar shouted out to Jesus, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **Ask your volunteer to shout this in a very loud voice!**

The crowd shouted, “Be quiet, man!” But the blind beggar was desperate. He shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **Invite the beggar to shout this in an even louder voice!**

Jesus stopped where he was. He ordered his friends to bring the blind man to him. He looked at him and asked, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Well! Imagine being asked that question! He was blind – was it not obvious what he needed? But Jesus wanted to hear his voice. He wanted the blind man to ask for his help. Quite simply, the man answered, “Lord, I want to see.”

“Receive your sight; your faith has healed you,” said Jesus. And immediately he could see!

The blind beggar was blind no more. He was overjoyed! **Bring out a party popper or hooter and give it to the volunteer.** He could see Jesus. He could see people around him. Immediately he left behind his bowl and his begging mat and followed Jesus, praising God at the top of his voice. Maybe he danced! **Invite the volunteer to do a wee jig.** Maybe he raised his hands. Who knows. But his joy was contagious. When all the people saw it, they praised God too. **Ask the congregation to shout hooray!**

**Ask your blind beggar to stand at the front, holding the props.**

*Turn to the children/congregation.*

Do you remember the name of the town where Jesus was? It was Jericho. As well as the blind beggar **Point to your beggar standing at the front**, someone else in Jericho met Jesus that day. His name was Zacchaeus. As we explore his story, let’s spot the difference between him and the blind beggar.

Who would like to be Zacchaeus? **Pick a different volunteer to come out and hold the BSG24 Zacchaeus image.**

Now Zacchaeus was well-known in Jericho because he had an important job. He had status, he had authority. He was a chief tax collector. Zacchaeus collected taxes. Not taxis, like the cars that drive around our cities, but taxes – t a x e s. Tax is money you pay to the Government. **Bring a bag of money out the story sack and hand to Zacchaeus.**

Zacchaeus was rich **Drape a brightly coloured scarf or stole around Zacchaeus**, at a time when most people were very poor. Luke doesn't tell us how he came to be rich, but tax collectors often became rich because they cheated people. They took a little bit more money than they should, and they kept it for themselves. Perhaps Zacchaeus was greedy. We do know for a fact that he was wealthy. And he had a good job. Perhaps he thought he didn't really need anything from Jesus.

Zacchaeus heard the crowd that day as they followed Jesus along the road. He was curious. He had heard about the amazing things Jesus had been doing, and he wanted to see what he looked like.

Oh, there's something else I forgot to tell you about Zacchaeus! He was a very short man. **Ask Zacchaeus to kneel**. Because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. Zacchaeus had an idea! He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus as he was coming that way. **Invite Zacchaeus to climb onto a large chair or climb up a pair of step ladders**.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up at Zacchaeus. He told Zacchaeus what he wanted him to do. "Zacchaeus, come down at once! I must stay at your house today."

Well, what a surprise! Right away Zacchaeus came down. **Help Zacchaeus to climb down the chair or ladder**. He welcomed Jesus gladly. Of course, the people round about weren't pleased at all, as you can imagine. They began to mutter, "Doesn't Jesus know what this man is like? He has gone to be the guest of a sinner! A crook!" **Shake your fist and make angry face**.

Then Zacchaeus said something amazing to Jesus, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half my possessions to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will give them back four times what I took!" **Hand Zacchaeus some chocolate coins or pre-cut BSG24 Coins to throw into the congregation**.

Jesus smiled and told the crowd he had come to seek and to save those who were lost:

People just like Zacchaeus... **Smile and point to Zacchaeus...**

People like the blind beggar... **Smile and point to the blind beggar...**

And people like you and me. **Point outwards for 'you' and to yourself for 'me'.**

*Thank the two volunteers and say we are going to pause to sing. Invite the beggar and Zacchaeus to sit down where they are at the front, while everyone sings.*