

All Age Worship Service

(AAW009)

Transforming
Church,
Transforming Lives.

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ALL AGE WORSHIP
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Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

Service Aim:

To teach that Jesus wants to: i) transform our individual lives, ii) transform our corporate life as the body of Christ and iii) send us out to transform the world.

If led at a good pace the whole service should take about an hour. If that is too long for your format, or you want to take it more slowly, split the service into two as indicated on pages 3 and 4 of this document and use it two weeks running.

Biblical Reference(s):

Luke 19:1-10, Romans 12:1-21, Matthew 5:13-16

Outline of Service:

- Welcome: Introduce the theme
- Opening Prayer:
- Opening songs: A couple of songs focusing on the goodness of God (See Appendix 1)
- Warm up: Transformation of our bodies. “Before and after” pictures.
- Bible Reading 1: Luke 19:1-10 using puppets and drama
- Talk 1: Jesus transformed Zacchaeus’ heart....Z had a “heart makeover.”
- Interactive on the “before and after” of Z encountering Jesus.
 - Jesus transforms our lives too.
- Testimonies: Couple of people interviewed about “before and after” meeting Jesus
- Song(s): Song(s) about transformation (See Appendix 1)
- Link: Jesus calls us to be part of His family, the church.
- God’s family is meant to look like the community of the God-head.
- Bible Reading 2: Romans 12:1-21 read mainly by people in the body of the congregation
- Talk 2: How does God want us to behave as His family?
- Where do we need to change?
- Confession: Corporate confession of the ways the church has failed.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh
- Songs: Song/s inviting the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh (See Appendix 1)
- Bible Reading 3: Matthew 5:13-16
- Talk 3: Jesus sends us out to transform the world with His love.
- He has called us to be salt - “make life taste better”
 - He has called us to be light – “to show a different way of doing life.”
- Prayers: Praying for transformation of community, nation, world.
- Handout: Hand out votive candles to remind us that Jesus transforms our hearts with his love and light and sends us out to transform the world.
- Final song: A final song about shining in the world (See Appendix 1)
- Blessing:

Below are two outlines for two shorter All Age Services, where the service outline on page 2 has been split in two:

Outline of Shorter Service 1:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs focusing on the goodness of God</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Transformation of our bodies. "Before and after" pictures.
Bible Reading 1:	Luke 19:1-10 using puppets and drama
Song:	<u>A song about transformation</u>
Talk 1:	Jesus transformed Zacchaeus' heart....Z had a "heart makeover." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive on the "before and after" of Z encountering Jesus. • Jesus transforms our lives too.
Testimonies:	Couple of people interviewed about "before and after" meeting Jesus
Song(s):	<u>Song(s) about transformation</u> (See Appendix 1)
Confession:	Where we personally have sinned
Credal statement	
Prayers:	Prayers including transformation of individuals.
Lord's Prayer	
Final song:	<u>A song sending people out</u>
Blessing	

Outline of Shorter Service 2:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs focusing on the goodness of God</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	Jesus calls us to be part of His family, the church. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God’s family is meant to look like the community of the God-head.
Bible Reading 2:	Romans 12:1-21 read mainly by people in the body of the congregation
Song:	<u>A song about transformation</u>
Talk 2:	How does God want us to behave as His family? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do we need to change?
Confession:	Corporate confession of the ways the church has failed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh
Songs:	<u>Song/s inviting the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh</u> (See Appendix 1)
Bible Reading 3:	Matthew 5:13-16
Talk 3:	Jesus sends us out to transform the world with His love. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has called us to be salt - “make life taste better” • He has called us to be light – “to show a different way of doing life.”
Prayers:	Prayers including transformation of community, nation, world.
Lord’s Prayer	
Handout:	Hand out votive candles to remind us that Jesus transforms our hearts with his love and light and sends us out to transform the world.
Final song:	<u>A final song about shining in the world</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that the theme of the service is transformation..... and that another word for that is change.

(Note: On the assumption that there will be young children present I have normally used the word, “change” rather than the word “transform” in the script below. If you are in a situation where “transform” would be easily understood, you can substitute it back to fit more closely with the Guildford Diocesan strapline of “transforming church, transforming lives”)

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Would you meet with us through your Spirit,
Teach us through your Word,
Show us where we need to change,
And give us all we need to serve you in the world.
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs focusing on the goodness of God as per Appendix 1.

Warm up:

The warm up introduces the subject of “transformation” by showing “before” and “after” pictures of people being changed in some physical way after a “make-over.” These pictures work best if they are projected onto a screen. I have included a couple of examples of “before” and “after” pictures in Appendix 1; one with a woman before and after her face has been made up, and the other with a man before and after going on a diet.

Alternatively a You-Tube video clip² could be shown of a woman who is transformed in a couple of minutes into a stunning beauty. *(Note: This wouldn't be suitable to be watched by people who can't cope with fast moving images)*

How many of you enjoy watching “make-over” programmes on television?

- Some programmes show the changes that can happen to an overrun garden when a professional gardener is let loose on the garden,
- whilst others show the changes that can happen to a dilapidated old house when an interior designer teams up with a builder.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603

² You can find the video clip by going on to You Tube at www.youtube.com and putting “Shocking Transformation: A \$75,000 Makeover” into the search bar. The clip you are looking for is 1.44mins long

Still other programmes show the changes that can happen to people when they spend time with professional make-up artists, or personal trainers, or hair stylists.

- I have a couple of “before” and “after” photographs to show you today.

This is a picture of a young lady before she had make-up applied and her hair styled, *(Project picture from Appendix 2)*

- and this is the picture afterwards. *(Project picture from Appendix 2)*
- Doesn't she look simply amazing? What a transformation.

This is a picture of a young man before he went on a diet. *(Project picture from Appendix 2)*

- and this is the picture afterwards. *(Project picture from Appendix 2)*
- It is hard to recognise it is the same bloke isn't it? What a transformation.

We can all change the way that we look in so many different ways can't we, but what about our hearts?

- Who can change our hearts?
- Who can help us become more loving, kind and generous?
- Who can give our hearts the “make-over” that we all need?

Zacchaeus was a man who needed a “heart make-over”.

- He lived in a place called Jericho and he wasn't a very nice man at all....
- One day someone came into town and Zacchaeus' life was completely changed.

Bible Reading 1:

The Bible Reading, Luke 19:1-10, could be presented as a simple drama narrated by a couple of puppets and acted out by a few people, who have very few lines to learn. The script in Appendix 3 uses a couple of camel puppets.³ Alternatively you could present the Bible reading using the Dramatised Bible.⁴

Talk 1:

For this talk you will need a flip-chart. On two separate pieces of paper, draw a large outline of a heart shape in thick red pen. Over the top of one heart shape write the word, “BEFORE” and over the top of the other heart shape write the word, “AFTER.” You will also need a thick black pen and a thick red pen.

Zacchaeus' life was changed dramatically after meeting Jesus wasn't it?

- The Bible doesn't tell us a huge amount about Zacchaeus, but there are a few clues about what sort of man he was in the reading we have just seen acted out.
- So thinking back to what you have just seen and heard, what was Zacchaeus like BEFORE he met Jesus?

Using the black pen, record people's answers **inside** the heart that has “Before” written above it. The sort of answers you are looking for are: Cheat, greedy, dishonest, unhappy, hard, cold, selfish, lonely, sad etc.

³ You can purchase long arm camel puppets from www.onewayuk.com

⁴ You can purchase the Dramatised Bible from Amazon at www.amazon.co.uk

Zacchaeus had a lot of bad stuff in his heart didn't he?

- He might have had riches, position and power as chief tax collector,
- but his life would have been pretty empty.....as none of these things can ultimately satisfy a person.

And then Jesus came into town.

I wonder what Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus that made him want to see him?

- Perhaps it was his own misery, loneliness, and emptiness that drew him to Jesus,
- or perhaps Zacchaeus had heard about the change in other people's lives after they had met Jesus.

Whatever it was, Zacchaeus was desperate to see Jesus and when he couldn't see Him because of the large crowd,

- he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so that he could get a good view of Jesus.

Can you imagine Zacchaeus' shock when Jesus stopped at the foot of his tree, looked up and said to him: "*Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today!*" (Luke 19:5)

Isn't it amazing that with all the crowds around him, Jesus knew and called Zacchaeus by name?

- Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was a cheat, greedy and a very selfish man, but Jesus accepted him and loved him as he was.
- Jesus knew that Zacchaeus' life was empty and that he needed a "heart make-over," and so Jesus invited himself to stay at Zacchaeus' home.

Nobody else would want to go to Zacchaeus' house as a guest.....they all hated him...they knew that he was a "sinner,"

- but Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house and spend time with Zacchaeus.

I wonder how Zacchaeus must have felt when Jesus called him down from the tree and then they went off together to his home?

- I wonder how you would have felt.

The Bible doesn't tell us what Jesus said to Zacchaeus when he stayed with him, but a little later it was very obvious to everyone that Zacchaeus had changed.

- Listen to this:
- "*Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*" (Luke 19:8)

Zacchaeus has had a change of heart....

- Jesus did for Zacchaeus what Zacchaeus couldn't do for himself.....
- He gave him a new heart.

Let's get out our second heart. (*Display the second heart with the word "After" above it. Ask someone to hold the piece of paper that displays the first heart so that you can refer to it.*)

- So what was Zacchaeus like AFTER he met Jesus?

Using the red pen, record people's answers **inside** the heart that has "After" written above it. The sort of answers you are looking for are: Honest, generous, happy, etc.

After he met Jesus, Zacchaeus was a completely different man wasn't he?

- His heart had been transformed, and so his life from this point on would be different. *(Put down the two pieces of paper with the hearts on them)*

Now Jesus is the same today, as He was yesterday and will be tomorrow.

- He knows each one of us by name and loves us.
- We may not be sitting up in a tree like Zacchaeus, but Jesus knows where we are.

He knows what we have done and how cold and hard our hearts can be, yet He says to each one of us:

- *"I must stay at your house today, and not just today – but every day. Let me offer you a new life. Let me give you a new heart too."*

Jesus reaches out to us with great kindness, not with condemnation and criticism.

- He reaches out to us from the place of having paid the price for our sin.

So how will you respond?

- Will you, like Zacchaeus gladly welcome Jesus into your life, or will you stay in the tree, just watching from a distance?

Testimonies:

Invite a couple of people (preferably one male and one female) to come and share with the congregation very simply how their lives have changed since meeting Jesus. You may like to question them using the before and after (meeting Jesus) format.

Song(s):

Song(s) about transformation as per Appendix 1

Link:

Introduce the Bible reading by saying something like:

We have just heard how Zacchaeus' life was dramatically changed after meeting Jesus,

- and how our lives can also be changed by Jesus today.

Once we have met Jesus, we become part of God's family....

- His community here on earth, known as the church.

God's family is meant to look like the community of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in heaven,

- so let's hear what St Paul says our church is to look like.

Bible Reading 2:

The second Bible reading is Romans 12:1-21. The first couple of verses of this reading can be read from the front of the church, then after that, the rest of the verses need to be read by members of the congregation from within the body of the congregation. As each person reads their verse, tell them to stand up and read it out very loudly.

Either choose 20 different readers or ask a number of people to read a variety of different verses. Type up the reading, photocopy it, and highlight the verse(s) that you want each reader to read.

Talk 2:

In preparation for the talk you need to draw a very large outline picture of a church building on a piece of A2 paper. You will also need to purchase some pieces of gummed paper⁵ in different colours. Cut up the paper into 17 different pieces so that they will fit inside the church outline (without sticking them in place). Make sure that you number the pieces so that you know where each piece fits!

On the **front** of the pieces of paper write the words (and Romans 12 verse number) that are found in Appendix 4. You may choose to print the words onto white stickers which you then stick onto the gummed paper for a more professional look.

Can you imagine what our church would be like if we all acted on what we have just heard from these verses from Romans 12.....

- if we were willing to allow what God says to change how we think, and then how we behave?

Can you imagine what it would be like if we all loved one another so deeply that we never spoke a critical and unkind comment to one another?

- Can you imagine what it would be like if we were all willing to use the gifts that the Lord has given us, so that no-one in the church family was overloaded?
- Can you imagine what it would be like if we all gave generously to those who didn't have as much as we have so that no-one went short?

A church family that allows the words of Romans 12 to change it by putting them into practice brings huge glory to God and is a very attractive family to belong to.

- People outside looking in will truly believe that Jesus is Lord when they see His people acting differently from those around them,
- for it takes God's Holy Spirit to enable us to be loving and generous and selfless.

I have an outline picture of a church building here as a way of showing our church family. *(Produce outline of church)*

- We are going to stick onto our church the words from Romans chapter 12 that will help to remind us how God wants us to live in our church family together.
- I need a couple of adults and children to come and help me with the sticking...
(Receive a few volunteers)

We are going to do this in a prayerful way.....

- As I read out the words and we stick them onto the church building, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you and show you any ways in which you need to change, so that our church family can bring more glory to the Lord.

Read out the words from Appendix 4 slowly and after you have read them, get your volunteers to stick them in the right place on your church building. At the end your church building should be completely covered by different pieces and colours of gummed paper.

⁵ You can purchase gummed paper squares in assorted colours from Amazon at www.amazon.co.uk

Hold it up and show the congregation what has been created. Make some comment about how a church family acting on the Romans 12 verses will be attractive and beautiful, like the church you have just created.

You may want to display the church somewhere prominent after the service, so that people can keep on reflecting on the message contained within the picture.

Confession:

Lead into a corporate Confession prayer on behalf of the Church family. You may like to say something like:

As we have allowed the words of Romans 12 to speak to us as a church family, let's ask the Lord's forgiveness for the times where we have not obeyed these words and so have not brought him glory.

Father, thank you for calling us into your family,
where we belong to one another and to you.

We are sorry when we haven't loved each other
Father forgive us and help us to change

We are sorry when we have failed to use our gifts to serve you
Father forgive us and help us to change

We are sorry when we haven't been prayerful
Father forgive us and help us to change

We are sorry when we have put ourselves first
Father forgive us and help us to change
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution. This could be:

- an informal prayer led by the service leader or
- an Absolution prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship."

Let's invite the Holy Spirit to come and help us change so that we can be the people God wants us to be.

Holy Spirit of God,
Please come and fill us afresh with your life.
Change us and mould us so that we might bring you glory.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song(s):

Song(s) inviting the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh as per Appendix 1

Bible Reading 3:

The Bible reading is Matthew 5:13-16. This could be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Talk 3:

You will need salt and a large candle for this talk. This talk works really well if the main points and questions are illustrated with the appropriate pictures using power-point.

Today we began our service by talking about how Jesus can change our hearts and lives,

- as He did for Zacchaeus and those we interviewed.

We then talked about how we are changed as a church family when we are willing to listen and act on what God says to us, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, in this last part of the service, we are going to spend a couple of minutes thinking about how Jesus sends us out from here,

- to change the world we live in with His love.

Can anyone remember the two everyday things Jesus talked about to help us understand how we are to change the world? *(Receive answers)*

- That's right Jesus talked about salt and light.

Salt makes food taste better doesn't it? *(Hold up a tub of salt)*

- How many of you really enjoy a packet of chips or a bag of crisps without salt?
- They are a bit tasteless aren't they?

In the same way as salt makes food taste better, Christians can "make life taste better" for other people.

- So how can we make life taste better for our neighbours?
- For the other children we meet at school?
- For the people we work with? PAUSE

Is there something that you could do to show Jesus' love and make someone's life better this week?

Salt also stops food from going bad....

- and in days before fridges that was essential.

Christians are meant to speak up in society for God's ways of doing things,

- so that our society doesn't go bad.
- Where do you have an opportunity to speak up for God's ways?

As well as being salt, Jesus also calls us to be light....*(Hold up a candle)*

- Being light in a dark world is about living differently from those around us who don't yet know Jesus.

According to Jesus the light that people will see in us is the good works that we do,

- and those good works are not simply our actions, but also include our godly character and what we say.

One Christian can make a huge difference in the life of their community.

- You don't need much salt to make food taste good,
- and you don't need much light to drive away the darkness.
- Let's go out from here today ready to change the communities we live and work in for His name.

Prayers:

You may like to focus your prayers on transforming the community / nation / world. Three or four simple prayers would work well with a refrain of:

Holy Spirit, please come and change this situation.

End with the Lord's Prayer.

Alternatively you could pray the Guildford Diocesan Collect of Transformation:

**God of our salvation,
you sent your Son to draw all people
into your abundant life:
grant that your Church,
empowered by your Spirit,
may be the instrument
of your transforming purposes in the world,
that all may know your power to heal and save.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Handout:

You may like to hand out votive candles⁶ before the singing of the final song and say something like:

As we light these candles, let us remember that Jesus changes our hearts with his love and light.

- We are now to carry His love and light into the world, changing it.

Final song:

A final song about shining in the world as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

As Jesus has changed your life,
go into the world and change it.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken. You may wish to present the Guildford Diocesan goals that have been written to bring about transformation within the Diocese.]

⁶ You can purchase votive candles and cardboard drip shields from Eden at www.eden.co.uk
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Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs focusing on the goodness of God. Ideas include:

- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- God is good we sing and shout it (Graham Kendrick © 1985 Thankyou Music)
- Here's a song bursting out (Alan Price, Matt Redman © 1998 Thankyou Music)
- Our God is a great big God (Jo Hemming, Nigel Hemming © 2001 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- Praise my soul the King of heaven (Henry F Lyte)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeve & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)
- Water you turned into wine (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2010 SHOUT! Music Publishing)

ii) Song(s) about transformation. Ideas include:

- All to Jesus I surrender (Judson Wheeler Van DeVenter, Winfield Scott Weedon)
- Be still for the presence of the Lord (David J Evans © 1986 Thankyou Music)
- Change my heart O God (Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Holiness, holiness is what I long for (Scott Underwood © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- I am a new creation (Dave Bilbrough © 1983 Thankyou Music)
- I'm giving you my heart (Marc James © 2000 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- Jesus You are changing me (Marilyn Baker © 1980 Authentic Publishing)
- Lord I come to you (Geoff Bullock © 1992 Geoff Bullock Music)
- We are heirs of God Almighty (Franz Joseph Haydn, Stuart Townend © Words: 2002 Thankyou Music)

iii) Song/s inviting the Holy Spirit to fill people afresh. Ideas include:

- Breathe on me Spirit of Jesus (Tina Pownall Kent © 1987 Sovereign Music UK)
- Fall afresh (Jeremy Riddle © 2011 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Please fill me Lord with your power (Alan Price © 1990 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- O breath of life come sweeping through us (Elizabeth Ann Porter Head)
- Spirit break out (Ben Bryant, Luke Hellebronth, Myles Dhillon, Tim Hughes © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Spirit of the living God (Daniel Iverson © Words: 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music)
- There must be more than this (Tim Hughes © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- This is the air I breathe (Marie Barnett © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- When the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Christine Jackson, Jenny Oliver © 1987, 1991 Powerpack)

iv) Final song about shining in the world. Ideas include:

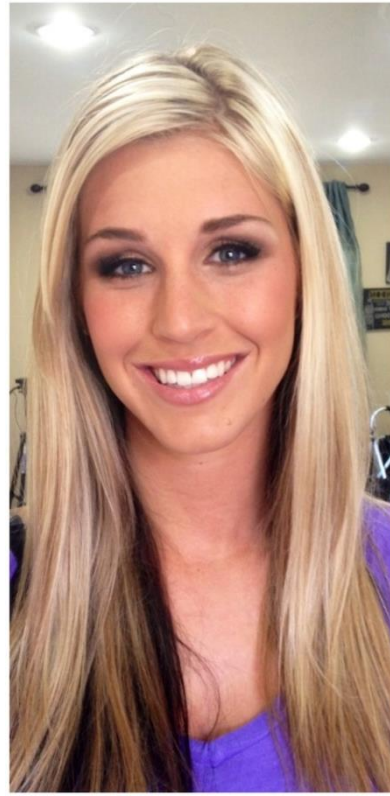
- Everyone needs compassion (Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan © 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Lord the light of your love is shining (Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson © 2007 Powerpack)
- You have called us chosen (Andy Park © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- You never put a light under (Ishmael © 1994 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Pictures for “Warm up”

Before Make-up



After Make-up



Before weight loss



After weight loss

AFTER



Appendix 3 – Puppets and Drama - “Zacchaeus encounters Jesus”

Puppet Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a male camel puppet called “Cameron,” who is rather grumpy, and his wife, a female camel puppet called “Camilla.” Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

Cast:

Male actor Zacchaeus, male actor Jesus, a few non-speaking actors for the crowd

Props:

Table, tax book, bags of money, chair, tree branch

.....
(Enter Zacchaeus who sits down at table and opens tax book)

Zac: Mmmm....now let me see.... who owes me taxes today? Ah yes...Mrs Zebedee owes me 2 drachmas. Oh I can't bear that woman, she'll probably whine and complain like she did last time I collected her taxes...*(in squeaky voice)* “Oh Mr Zacchaeus, I can't possibly pay you all that money...I have six mouths to feed and my husband is sick”
 Don't these people realise I have to make a living? Well she can jolly well pay up...that's what I say....and if she has to sell some of those brats of hers into slavery.....good riddance from Jericho.

(Cameron and Camilla appear as Zac continues to look down his book)

Camilla: Oh Cameron, look at that dreadful man....there he is again looking at his tax book. I wonder who his next poor victim is. I heard that poor Mr. Arachna gave old meanybags his last drachma last week and his family didn't eat all weekend.

Cameron: I don't think you should call him names Camilla...really...as camels we are above that sort of low human behaviour.

Camilla: But Cameron...have you not heard all the awful stories about “that man”? Look at him...he has no heart. I know he has a job to do....and mighty unpopular that makes him....collecting taxes for Caesar....but he cheats people.

Cameron: How do you know that?

Camilla: Well, when he thinks no-one is looking....

Cameron: But of course you are....

Camilla: Oh do try and listen Cameron.....well when he thinks no-one is looking...he slips a few notes under his robe and into a little money belt he wears around that Eeeenormous waist of his. No wonder he can afford to eat at the most expensive restaurants in town....he probably has double portions looking at the size of him. And do you know what Cameron.....

Cameron: No....

Camilla I heard that his house not only has all the latest gadgets but his camel (mighty unfriendly fellow he is).....

Cameron: Uh huh....

Camilla: Well his camel eats out of a gold-plated bowl.

Cameron: How ridiculous. Do you want me to go over and spit on him Camilla?

Camilla. Cameron camel you will do no such thing. He'd probably tax our owners even more. But I suppose in a way you have to feel sorry for the man.

Cameron: Changing your tune now are you Camilla? Typical woman!

Camilla: I will ignore that. I gather from what I have heard people say, that he is the most unpopular man in Jericho. He hasn't any friends. In fact no-one can bear him. He might have the nicest house in town but he must be the loneliest fellow because he certainly won't have any callers at his house. Oh Cameron....what's all that noise?

Cameron: What noise?

Camilla: Are you going deaf as well as being grumpy? Look over there.....can't you see the crowdor do you need your glasses?

Cameron: Oh yes....now they are coming close I can see.

(Enter Jesus walking from the side front of church/room with a crowd of people around him. Stops half-way and says)

Jesus: The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news

(Jesus carries on miming talking to the crowd)

Camilla: I can see now....oh look it is Jesus. How wonderful....he has come to Jericho. I have heard from Humphrey so many amazing stories about Jesus.

Cameron: I wouldn't believe everything you hear.....

Camilla: Oh really Cameron.....I have heard about wonderful miracles that Jesus has done.... healing people by simply touching them.....feeding crowds of people with just a few rolls and fish.

Cameron: Hhmpf.....I'll tell you a miracle.

Camilla: Yes

Cameron: It would be a miracle if that little man over there changed.

(Zac gets up and joins the crowd but cannot see Jesus. Starts jumping up and down)

Camilla: Oh look Cameron....I think he wants to see Jesus. He has got up from his seat.....oh how funny.....ha..ha....he's so short he can't see Jesus.

Cameron: Serves him right. I don't expect Jesus would want to meet such an unpleasant little man.

Camilla: Now what's he doing? Oh do look Cameron.

Cameron: What now?

(Zac climbs a "tree" eg stands on a chair and holds a branch with leaves on it)

Camilla: Cameron....he's climbing that old sycamore tree....oh I do hope the branch doesn't break...he is a very heavy little man. I never thought I'd see the day when a chief tax collector is sitting in a tree like a bird.

Cameron: Perhaps the heat has got to him.

Camilla: Oh Jesus is coming this way....wow he's coming really close to us Cameron.... I wonder what he is going to do!

(Jesus walks with the crowd until he reaches the "tree" where he stops, looks up and says)

Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.

Camilla: How did Jesus know that Zacchaeus was up that tree? And how does he know his name? Why would Jesus want to spend the day with him of all people? This is amazing. Oh Cameron do look!

Cameron: I was just trying to have a little shut-eye Camilla

(Zac comes down from tree and looks at Jesus. Jesus mimes talking with him. Crowd mutter amongst themselves in a disconsolate way)

Camilla: How can you Cameron? This is amazing....Zacchaeus has come down from the tree and he is talking with Jesus. I can't quite hear what he is saying....

Cameron: Oh really,....your ears not working so well these days dear.....

Camilla: I think Zacchaeus is welcoming Jesus back to his place....for a meal. I can't really hear because a lot of people are talking. They don't seem very happy about this.

Cameron: You can't blame them Camilla....if Jesus is as special as you think he is...then a lot of people would want the honour of entertaining him.

Camilla: I just heard what some of them are saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner". This is not going down well at all. Perhaps Jesus has made a mistake....wait till he gets to Zacchaeus' house and finds out what a mean, hard-hearted man he is.

(Jesus and Zacchaeus move off stage completely leaving the crowd)

Cameron: Not so special this Jesus after all eh Camilla? You have to admit he has made a big error of judgment. Everyone in Jericho knows what an unpleasant person Zacchaeus is.

Camilla: Mmm....I don't understand it.....I thought that Jesus was.....

Cameron: Spit it out old girl....

Camilla: I'm not so old....

Cameron: Well. What did you think?

Camilla: It doesn't matter....

Cameron: Oh come on dear...I am listening....what did you think Jesus was?

Camilla: From what I had heard I thought that Jesus was maybe the Messiah.....that he had come to save the humans. But now I am confused. Why would Jesus want to spend time with someone who is a friend of the Romans, and who is not exactly "Mr Popular?"

Cameron: Well here comes your answer.....look here is Jesus and Zacchaeus is with him.

(Jesus and Zac re-appear)

Camilla: Zacchaeus looks different Cameron...he looks happy! Wow....his face is shining.

Zac: Look Lord. Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

Jesus: Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Camilla: There you are Cameron.....you have your miracle. That is a truly changed man.

(All exit)

Appendix 4 – Words for Talk 2

Romans 12:3	Be Humble
Romans 12:4	We are all different
Romans 12:5	We belong to one another
Romans 12:6,7,8	Use your gift(s)
Romans 12:9	Love genuinely
Romans 12:10	Love and honour others
Romans 12:11	Serve passionately
Romans 12:12	Be joyful, patient, prayerful
Romans 12:13	Share generously
Romans 12:14	Bless the persecutors
Romans 12:15	Be sensitive
Romans 12:16	No arrogance
Romans 12:17	No repaying evil
Romans 12:18	Live at peace
Romans 12:19	No revenge
Romans 12:20	Be kind to enemies
Romans 12:21	Do good