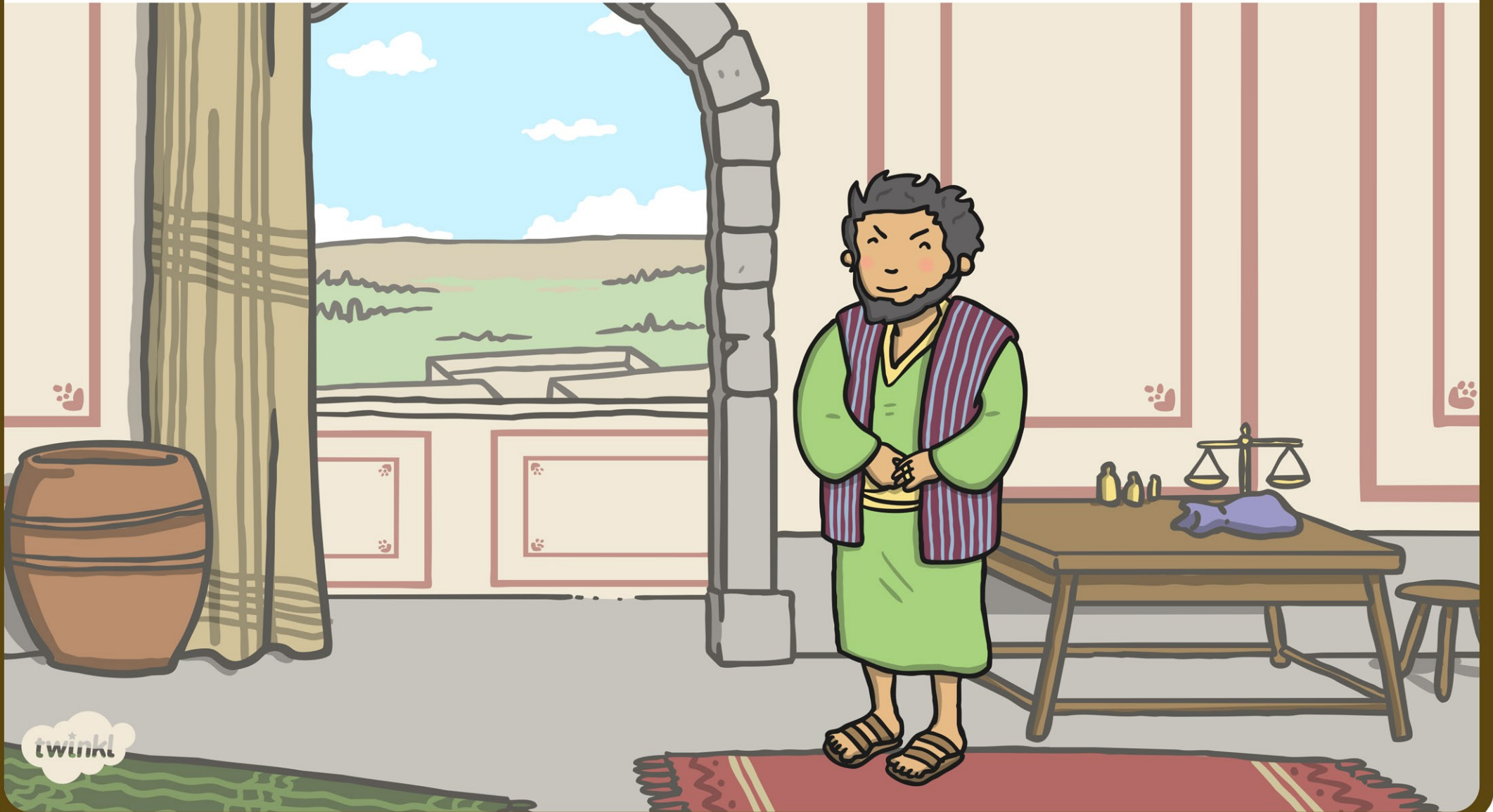


THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS



In the town of Jericho lived a man named Zacchaeus. He was the town's chief tax collector and was very wealthy. He was also very unpopular because the Jews hated the tax collectors who stole money for themselves.



Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was visiting Jericho and decided that he wanted to see who this Jesus was. However, Zacchaeus was too short to see over the crowd that had gathered around Jesus.



So Zacchaeus decided to run ahead and climb into a sycamore-fig tree to get a better view as Jesus passed. To his surprise as Jesus drew near he called up into the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I'm coming to your house for dinner!"
Zacchaeus was delighted!



Some other people weren't so pleased though and were angry with Jesus. They began to mutter, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"



However, after having Jesus as his guest Zacchaeus had a change of heart about his greedy ways. He announced, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my wealth to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."



As Zacchaeus said this, Jesus replied, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! Finding and restoring lost people like this, is just why I came here." From that day forward, Zacchaeus became a very popular person.

