

Check in on the app or Text in your attendance to # 208.904.3222 Message: Here

Give in the app

If you are new, download the Real Life Ministries app and create a profile!

Women's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1777

Men's Activities Text "1" to #208.203.1822

"Zacchaeus"

A series where we see Jesus befriend and care for all different types of people and their issues.

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV) Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But 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." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Humble yourself - Climb a tree

Zacchaeus wasn't stopped by pride and dignity

- By climbing the tree, Zacchaeus would have been ridiculed and harassed. Yet, in the face of that, he humbled himself, surrendered his pride.
- Zacchaeus had a wealthy and lofty social status. Wealthy adults in fine clothes don't often climb trees, *kids do*.

Matthew 18:3 (NIV) "And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'"

Don't let the crowd get in your way of seeing Jesus

The crowd represents whatever gets in your way *to seeing* and *responding* to Jesus.

- **Seeing over the crowd involves us dealing with our fear of man.**

Proverbs 29:25 (NIV) Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

- The fear of man (*seeking man's approval*) leads to *loss of peace* and freedom, often leaving us paralyzed to respond to God.

Matthew 10:28 (NIV) Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

- **Seeing over the crowd means dealing with our unconfessed sin.**

1. Cohabiting, adultery, drug use, cheating on taxes, idolatry of our kids, sports and jobs.
2. If you want to truly see Jesus, you will need to eliminate the things that separate you from Him.

Colossians 3:5 (NIV) Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

- **Seeing over the crowd means getting past the self-righteous attitude of others.**

- Notice how Jesus deals with the hurting and lost vs. those who are self-righteous.
- Other's actions are not an excuse for you to not climb a tree to see and respond to Jesus.
- What God offers us in a face to face encounter is the opportunity for a clean slate.

Psalm 103:13 (NIV) As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

John 10:10 (NIV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Receive Jesus' invitation for relationship

Luke 19:5-6 (NIV) When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

- Notice something very important: Jesus comes to stay in Zacchaeus' house before he repents.
- This story is a picture of God's grace *tilling the soil* of Zacchaeus' heart, leading him to respond to Jesus' offer.

John 6:44 (NIV) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."

1. In Luke 19:5 - to stay at his house meant to abide, to go home and eat with him and participate in his life.

Revelation 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

- The evening meal in the Jewish culture was an intimate setting where they exchanged life together.
- Jesus is saying the same about relationship with us. 'I want to be at the center of everything you do. I want to share life with you.' John 14:23, 15:5

- Receiving Jesus' invitation to relationship leads to a repentant life.

Luke 19:8 (NIV) But 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."

Notice how Zacchaeus' repentance is not out of obligation or desire for Jesus to love or accept him.

- Jesus already called him by name, invited him into relationship and then stayed in his home.
- Zacchaeus was responding to the grace given to him, not trying to earn it.
- Zacchaeus' repentance included *restitution*. Making things right (making shalom).

Romans 2:4 (NIV) "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"

- Being face to face with Jesus changed Zacchaeus from the inside out. He received Jesus with joy. And what overflowed out of him was a desire to be obedient and godly.

Small Group Discussion Questions: Story Luke 19:1-10

1. Why was it so important for Zacchaeus to climb the tree? What did his action demonstrate?
2. In your life, what 'crowds out' your ability to see and respond to Jesus clearly? Is it fear, control, sin or self-righteousness?
3. How will you surrender to what God wants to change in your life?
4. How will you use this story to help someone you know who is lost, stuck or discouraged?

