

Luke 19:1-10 Diary of a Short Tax Collector

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.”

COME TO THE PARTY (5 Sessions in Luke): Leader's Notes

Read & Discuss:

- Read the biblical story out loud.
- Give a few minutes of quiet for each person to read the story again on their own and note things that are interesting or confusing.
- Ask open-ended questions that keep the conversation focused on the biblical story.
 - **What do you notice about Jesus and how he interacts with people? What impresses you about him?**
 - **Which of the characters do you find most interesting? Why?**
 - **What do you find surprising or troubling?**
 - **What does the story communicate about God?**
- Let the scripture speak for itself and don't worry about coming to agreement or answering all your friends' questions.

Share & Invite:

- Share a story of how Jesus has been real to you. To prepare, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what part of your story your friend needs to hear. Consider for yourself:
 - **What character in the biblical story do you identify with? Why?**
 - **How has Jesus touched your life and brought healing?**
 - **How has Jesus answered your questions or resolved your doubts?**
 - **Do you relate to my story or to one of the characters in the passage?**
- Ask them to pick a need, struggle, or situation in their life that they can invite Jesus to interact with, e.g. **Is there a place in your life where you've worked hard, but haven't gotten the results you are hoping for? What would it be like to invite Jesus into that area?**
- **What do you think Jesus might want you to do?**

Pray & Watch:

- **I realize it might be new to you to talk to Jesus directly, but let's ask him to interact with your life as he did in the biblical story.** Give your friend the option to pray out loud or silently.
- Finish by praying out loud in a natural way for the areas shared.
- Trust God to get involved in your friend's life. Remember, Jesus is always seeking the lost.
- As you see God speaking to your friend, take a risk to invite them to become a follower of Jesus, e.g. **It looks like Jesus is pursuing you. Would you like to say yes to following him?**
- A great resource for new believers is launch.intervarsity.org.