

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 25: Zacchaeus- More than Just a Wee Little Man
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Talk about some rich people in America. What are the benefits/blessings of being rich? What challenges/temptations do rich people face? The fact that we live in America makes us “richer” than 75% of the world. What are your thoughts on this fact?

Digging In: Luke 19:1-10

1. Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem, passes through Jericho. He encounters a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector. The chief tax collector for a particular region leased from the Romans the right to collect taxes, and then oversaw subordinate tax collectors from whom he collected a commission. How do you think Zacchaeus was viewed by his fellow Jews? Share what you know about the “tax collectors” of the Bible.
2. What did Zacchaeus do to get the chance to see Jesus? Why would he do this? Take note that running and climbing a tree would have been viewed as “undignified” things to do in the 1st Century. Why would Zacchaeus “risk” behaving this way?
3. How would Jesus know Zacchaeus’ name? Why would Jesus ask to go to his home? How did Zacchaeus respond to this invitation? What does this say about his heart?
4. Verse 7 says that some were displeased. Can you speculate on which group(s) of people would have been upset? Why would they be upset? Why do you suppose the crowds were offended at the fact that Jesus would be staying with Zacchaeus? How would they know that Zacchaeus was a “notorious sinner?”
5. Was Zacchaeus deterred by these perceptions? How do we know?
6. Normal restitution for a wrong committed was to add 20% to the value of the goods lost (Lev. 5:16, Num. 5:7), though the penalty for theft of an animal was 4 or 5 times its value (Exod. 22:1). What is Zacchaeus saying when he makes his statement in verse 8?
7. How does Jesus respond to this statement? What does Jesus mean when He says “this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham?”
8. Most people believe verse 10 is the theme of Luke’s gospel. How did Jesus live out the truth of this statement?

Reflection:

1. What did repentance look like as you consider this passage? What did it cost Zacchaeus?
2. Can we identify with the “displeased people” of vs. 7? In what way(s) do we make it more difficult for seekers to find Jesus? What step(s) can we take to avoid this?
3. Share some practical things that your group can do to live out the teachings from this encounter.

Prayer: Father God, save us. Confront us with the truth of who you are. Thank you for your beautiful love for us. May we walk in repentance and humility. Help us to live out our faith boldly. Thank you for Jesus and His sacrifice. Holy Spirit, move my heart to love and service.