

Life Group #2

Luke 19:1-10

Note for those leading discussions- Last week Jesus revealed his heart. This week he reveals his mission with his words and actions. We want students to discover that he is a seeking God. Only things of value are worth seeking when they are lost. Jesus left heaven and came to earth in order seek those who are lost. Jesus does not hide from sinners, he seeks them out and offers them salvation in Him. I felt like I already gave you too many bullet points of context, but it is worth noting that "Son of Man" was a common way Jesus identified himself. On the one hand it identifies him as a human being. On the other hand, it references Daniel 7 where the son of man was an exalted heavenly being. Jesus is both.

Intro (use your own words)

Each week we want to be together in community and get to know Jesus through the Bible. For the next several weeks we are going to look at passages where Jesus describes himself. Over the past week we all have chosen words to describe ourselves. We hope that these words will help others understand who we are. There are many passages in the Bible where Jesus chose words to describe himself. Our goal is simple- we are going to read one of those passages and seek to answer 2 questions: Who is Jesus? How do I relate to Him and follow Him?

Each week we are going to give a little background to the passage, read it and break into smaller groups for discussion. It doesn't matter if you know a lot about Jesus or a little, we want everyone to be able to engage in the discussion.

This week we are going to look at a passage with 3 main characters: Jesus, Zacchaeus and the crowd. There are a few facts that can help us understand the passage better.

- In the time of Jesus the Romans had taken over Israel and oppressed the Jewish people.
- The Romans used Jewish men to collect taxes. These tax collectors were the most hated people in Israel since they took money from Jewish people and passed it on to Rome. Tax collectors were paid by taking extra money from their own people. They were seen as horrible sinners and traitors to the nation and to God.
- Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who had become very rich by taking money from his own people.
- In the Jewish culture good religious people would never share a meal or a house with a "sinner".
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Read the passage (2X?).

Small Group Discussion

- Jesus uses both words and actions to describe himself in this passage. What do the actions of Jesus teach us about him?
- His actions clearly angered the crowd. Was the crowd right to be angry? Pick a side and explain why the crowd was right to be angry or why they were not right.
- What are the different words that Jesus uses to describe himself?
- When you hear these words, what comes to your mind?
- What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate by using these words?
- Does this description of Jesus draw you towards him? Why or why not?
- In light of who Jesus is and what He came to do, what is one way you can respond to Him this week?
- Pray for each other