

Life Group #5: Seeking Jesus  
Luke 19:1-10

**Objectives:** We want to see Jesus as the one who came to seek and save the lost. We want to see our need for Jesus. We want to see how we can respond to his offer of salvation.

**Getting to Know You (5 minutes)**

**Launch (3 minutes)**

If you had to summarize the ministry of Jesus in one sentence, what would you say?

This week we are going to look at an interaction between Jesus and a man named Zacchaeus.

**Explore**

**Read Luke 19:1-10**

- **How would you describe Jesus in this passage? Why?**
- **What do you “see” in Jesus that would cause you to want to follow Him?**
- **What do you see that would cause you to not be interested in following Jesus?**
- **How does this picture of Jesus challenge your standard view of Jesus?**

To fully understand this passage we are going to take a closer look at the 2 main characters.

- **What do we observe about Zacchaeus in this passage?** (Seeking to see Jesus, short, chief tax collector, very rich, notorious sinner, hated, shameful person)
- **What do you know about tax collectors?** *(They worked for the Romans who occupied and oppressed the Jewish Nation. They got rich by charging more money than they had to. They were the most hated people in society because they were traitors who got rich by ripping off their own people.)*
- **What do we observe about Jesus?** *(Knew Z. by name, he ignored the crowd to interact with the one who is seeking Him, He was intentionally seeking Z. “I must stay with you”, his mission is to seek and save the lost, to stay or eat with someone in those days was to be a part of their family).*

- **What barriers did Zacchaeus have to overcome in order to see Jesus?** (The crowd, his dignity)
- **How would you describe the crowd?** (large, self-righteous, moralistic, judgmental, cultural majority)
- **Why was it undignified for Zacchaeus to climb the tree?** (They did not wear jeans ☺; Only children climbed trees in that culture, Rich men did not, since he was hated it would have drawn attention to him)
- **In what ways are “the crowd” and our own pride barriers to us seeing Jesus today?**
- **How can we overcome these barriers?** (we need to see Jesus for ourselves and not just listen to the crowd. We need to look at the scriptures with our own eyes)

Now let’s look at the order of the relationship between Jesus and Z.

1. Jesus asks to stay/eat with Z which is a sign of love, grace and honor.
2. Z received him joyfully
3. Then Z announces that he is going to repay those he robbed from and give his wealth to the poor.
4. Jesus pronounces that salvation has come to Z’s house
5. Jesus shares that he came to seek and save the lost.

- **What can we learn from the order of this relationship?** (Jesus was seeking Z while Z was seeking Him. Jesus offers grace and honor to this shameful sinner. When Z receives the offer of grace then Z is changed and with joy changes by giving generously.)

**Summary**

**In this passage we see Jesus as someone who is actively seeking to bring salvation to people who do not know him. He brings**

**honor to a person who is shamed by his community.**

**We see Zacchaeus overcome the barriers of the crowd and his own pride so that he can see Jesus and receive salvation and honor from Jesus.**

**Apply** (choose the questions that best fits your group)

- **What barriers do you need to overcome in order to receive Jesus' offer of love and grace?**
- **What steps do you need to take in order to see Jesus?**
- **If you are already a Christ follower, how should you respond to this passage?**
- **How does it impact you to know that Jesus is a seeking God?**
- **God uses His people to offer salvation to others (2 Corinthians 5). Who are people in your life you want to pray for to "see" Jesus?**

**Announce**

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