

## LUKE 19:1-10 CONNECT GROUP MATERIALS

### Summary

I don't know about you, but I think too often this story gets categorized as a story for little kids. If we leave the story of Zacchaeus to only be used in Spark, then we have missed some important truths that apply to our lives.

From the narrative we see:

1. That Zacchaeus had a desire to see Jesus. There was an intentional pursuit of Him.
2. Zacchaeus must have been caught off guard when Jesus called him by name and said that He was going to be staying at Zacchaeus' house. God sees us, knows who we are and wants to spend time with us.
3. Zacchaeus' first response was to repent by giving half of his possessions to the poor. This shows an immediate recognition of being in the presence of Jesus. He could have easily hosted Jesus in his house without making any changes. Zacchaeus wanted to bring change in his life. Proximity to Jesus will challenge us to change.

**As a group take some time to share your reflections from the Sunday teaching.**

- What did you sense God prompting you about?
- What was your key take-away from the message?
- How have you been going at putting that take-away into action?

**Read the passage together.**

1. What do you notice about the way Jesus interacts with Zacchaeus? How might that influence how we do life with people?
2. Who finds whom in this story? How do we see this play out? What difference does it make how we answer this question?
3. In what ways can past sins and guilt keep you from wanting to be in the presence of Jesus?
4. "The people" in this story mutter when Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus house saying "he has gone to eat with a sinner." We have all had moments when our 'grace tank' runs low. How can you fight against the heart attitude that some people are more deserving of grace while others have fallen too far away?

5. What comes to mind when thinking about holiness and repentance?

Notice how Jesus didn't mention anything about money, sin, or the need to repent when he was talking with Zacchaeus. Do you associate the presence of Jesus with holiness and the need of repentance? Why or why not?

5. Why was it important for Zacchaeus not just experience a change of heart or challenge but to then do something about it? What might God be saying to you today? And what will you do about it?

6. For Zacchaeus money and finances was an area of his life he needed to surrender to Jesus. He needed to refocus his heart and mind from money to Jesus. What does it mean for you and your household to not only repent, but to surrender the areas your life that are drawing you away from closeness with Jesus? How will you do this?

**As a connect group how are you seeking to draw near to Jesus TOGETHER?**

Discuss with your group one thing God has been challenging you on through this sermon and reflection notes. Take time to share how you might respond differently this week and pray for one another.

Encourage members of the group to follow up the next time you meet to see how you are going following through on what God was challenging you about.