

Jesus is Our Savior
Lesson 02 of the series "Foundations"

"Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. 'Zacchaeus!' he said. 'Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.' Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. 'He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,' they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, 'I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!' Jesus responded, 'Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.**'"

Luke 19:1-10 (NLT)

1. Jesus came into our world to **seek** lost sinners.

"...the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, 'Why do you eat and drink with such scum?' Jesus answered them, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.'"

Luke 5:27-32 (NLT)

Note: The Bible says we are **ALL** lost sinners. "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23 (NLT)

Note: Jesus called Zacchaeus by name. He was seeking a relationship with him.

Good News! Jesus loves us and **WANTS** a relationship with us no matter who we are or what we've done.

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise (to return), as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

2. Jesus came into our world to **save** lost sinners.

- a. Jesus came to save us from the **penalty** of sin.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God." 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

Good News! When we come to Jesus all of our sins are forgiven and forgotten, forever.

"Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and ...he said, 'It is finished!' Then he bowed his head and released his spirit." John 19:28-30 (NLT)

- b. Jesus came to save us from the controlling **power** of sin.

"I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway... Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?"

Romans 7:19-24 (NLT)

"Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord... now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death." Romans 7:25-8:2 (NLT)

Good News! We don't need to try to manage our sins anymore.

"God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

- c. Jesus came to save us from the **presence** of sin.

"Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay."

Romans 8:20-21 (NLT)

"I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.' And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!' And then he said to me, 'Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.'" Revelation 21:3-5 (NLT)

Good News! Eternal Life is available to **all** who come to Jesus for salvation!

"And he also said, 'It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life.'" Revelation 21:6 (NLT)

Life Application: I must ask Jesus to save **me**.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

Note: When Jesus called Zacchaeus it was an urgent call. "'Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.' Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy."
Luke 19:5b-6 (NLT)

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Connect Group questions

1. Describe a time in your life when you were shocked to see someone come to church. What made it so surprising?
2. Read Luke 19:1-10. Had you been in Jericho that day, how would you have responded to Jesus inviting himself to Zacchaeus's house?
3. Read Romans 2:28-29. Why do you think Jesus said Zacchaeus was a true son of Abraham?
4. Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does this verse make you feel?
5. Discuss the three dimensions of salvation we have through Christ. Why do you think many Christians tend to focus only on the first one?
 - Jesus came to save us from the **penalty** of sin. (Romans 6:23, 1 Peter 3:18)
 - Jesus came to save us from the controlling **power** of sin. (Romans 7:19-8:2)
 - Jesus came to save us from the **presence** of sin. (Romans 8:20-21, Revelation 21:3-5)
6. When did you ask Jesus to be your savior? What brought you to this point?
7. Spend some time as a group sharing about people you love who do not yet know Jesus. Then spend some time as a group praying for them to come to know Christ.
8. Spend some time as a group praying for wisdom for our staff and church leaders as we work on plans to gather for in-person worship. How do you feel about this?