



“ZACCHAEUS”

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Discussion Questions

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Luke 19:1-10, and 18:18-27; Romans 3:23-24

Zacchaeus and the crowd that judges him represent two kinds of injury: those who hurt others because of self interest and those who do so because of their religious self-righteousness. In today's message we see how Jesus addresses both hurts as Pastor Israel invites us to bring our injury to the Lord. In the chapter right before the one containing Zacchaeus' story, Jesus claims that nothing is impossible for God. Whether we feel inadequate or injured, God can make us new, while the restoration and healing of salvation comes to our "house."

LEAN IN: *These are ice breakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What kind of trees did you climb as a kid and what's your best memory of that activity?
2. Do you ever remember having a surprise dinner guest and if so, what was that like?
3. Have you ever been told you were too small to do something, like at a carnival ride? What was that like?
4. What's one thing about this message that stood out to you and why?
5. Is there anything you put into practice from last week's teaching, and if so what was your experience? If not, why not?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What was Jesus' original intention as he entered Jericho?
2. What does Luke tell us about Zacchaeus; why so much detail?
3. What do Zacchaeus do to see Jesus and how does the Lord respond? What do Zacchaeus' actions tell us?
4. What do you notice about the crowd's reaction?
5. How does verse 8 begin and why might that be important?
6. What does Zacchaeus pledge to do, and what impact might that have on his wealth?
7. How does Jesus respond to Zacchaeus' declaration?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Given the #metoo and #churchtoo movements, how do most people in our culture process the injury they suffer, especially if those wrongs happen within the Church?
2. What seems irreparably broken in our modern world to you, impossible to fix even for God?

3. Are there powerful, wealthy people who have given most of what they have accumulated to try and help others? What do you think motivated them? Can you think of any notable examples from our contemporary era, or even within the 20th Century?
4. Where do you see crowds judging “good” people for hanging out with “bad” people? What motivates the “good” people? What spurs on their critics?
5. How would our modern world conceive of salvation in a secular sense, if at all, and why?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What makes you feel small and inadequate? How might God want to address that?
2. What keeps you from seeing, or getting to Jesus?
3. How does Jessu want to invite himself into your life and what might he want to do once you agree to the invitation?
4. What about the crowd’s criticism in impacting you and your relationship with Jesus?
5. What part of Pastor Israel’s message most touched your heart and why?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Ask God what “tree” you need to climb to get a clearer view of Jesus and do what he says.
2. Ask God if there is anything for which you need to make amends, any past hurt you may have visited on someone. Try your best to do the next best thing that God tells you to do to make it right.