

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Is there any one in your life that you need to make amends with? How are you planning to do so?
- What is God calling you to do this week?
- How do you think people view you? What can you change about yourself to help them see more of Jesus in you?
- Who in your life needs to be encouraged? What ways can you encourage them this week?

PRAYER

- Pray for anyone you know who feels like God doesn't see him or care about him right now.
- Ask God for his help in showing people his love and care.
- Ask God to help you in areas you feel alone or lost in.
- Ask God to help you to be more sensitive to the times when he has something for you to do in order to help someone else.

NOTES



Week 5 - Zacchaeus

CONNECT

- What would you consider to be the very worst occupation?
- When was the last time you climbed a tree?

WORD

"¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." ⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.""

Luke 19:1–10 (NIV)

THOUGHT

Zacchaeus was one of the final people Jesus encountered on his journey to Jerusalem where he would be crucified. His story is an interesting contrast with the story of the Rich Young Ruler who Jesus met in the previous chapter. The Rich Young Ruler seemed sincere in his desire to follow Jesus, but when asked to choose between his wealth and Jesus, he chose his wealth, prompting Jesus to comment on how extremely difficult it is for rich people to follow him. We then come to the story of Zacchaeus, a wealthy Jew, despised for his role as tax collector for the Romans, a position for which people would bid based on how much they thought they could collect from their fellow Jews. Rome did not pay these tax collectors, rather, they were allowed to keep anything they collected over and above their bid. As you can imagine, the more Rome loved a collector, the more the Jews hated them. With this in mind, let's take a look at the story of Zacchaeus.

1. How would you have felt if you were Zacchaeus called by Jesus when you were up in a tree?

- Afraid
 - Honored
 - Excited
 - Embarrassed
 - Suspicious
 - Surprised he knew my name
 - Other _____
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2. Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house?

- He needed a place to stay
 - He wanted to help the 'little man up in the tree'
 - He wanted to talk to him about his shady business practices
 - He wanted to show everyone that Zacchaeus wasn't such a bad guy after all
 - He knew that Zacchaeus wanted to turn his life around
 - Other _____
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3. Compare the results of Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus in vs. 8-9 with that of the rich young ruler in the verses below.

"²²When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."²³When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.²⁴Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" **Luke 18:22-24 (NIV)**

4. Why did Zacchaeus volunteer to make such generous restitution to those he had cheated?

- He was already in a 12 Step program
 - He felt guilty
 - His heart was full of love and gratitude towards Jesus
 - He wanted to be accepted by the community
 - A miracle had happened in his life.
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5. "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too, is a son of Abraham." What was Jesus saying about Zacchaeus?

- He has followed the example of Abraham's faith
 - He was "lost" but now is "found".
 - Others see him as an outcast but God loves and accepts him.
 - His generous donation shows that his heart has changed.
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6. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when he and Jesus parted?

7. Who was the person early in your life who affirmed you like Jesus did with Zacchaeus?
