

LESSON 1

JESUS AND THE UNPOPULAR MAN

To begin...

1. If you were casting a movie about this story, which actor would you choose to portray Zacchaeus in a movie?

2. In the video lesson, Calvin taught: "If you've ever looked for Jesus, take heart in knowing that Jesus is looking for you too." Reflect on your testimony... when did you first realize that Jesus was looking for you?

Discussion Prompts

1. After reading [Luke 19:1-4](#), how would you describe Zacchaeus? What traits or qualities does he seem to possess?

2. Why are his height and occupation significant details for the reader to know?

3. Ask someone to read [Matthew 9:9-13](#). How does this passage compare to [Luke 19:5-7](#)? What similarities do you notice?

4. While we don't have a record of the conversation, what do you imagine Jesus said to Zacchaeus during their meal?

5. In [Luke 19:8](#), why does Zacchaeus promise to pay back those he cheated 4 times the amount? (HINT: read [Exodus 22:1](#); [Numbers 5:7](#); and [2 Samuel 12:6](#))

6. Read [Romans 4:16-17](#) and [Luke 19:9](#). What does Jesus mean when he calls Zacchaeus a "son of Abraham"?

7. During the video lesson, Calvin said, "I think I'm a bit like Zacchaeus." What did he mean? How might you be a bit like Zacchaeus?

PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Reflect on any questions that your group did not answer or that you want to process at a deeper level.
2. Each day this week, read [Luke 19:1-10](#) in a different Bible version.
3. Read [Deuteronomy 8:7-9](#); [Proverbs 27:18](#); [Matthew 24:32-35](#); [Luke 6:43-45](#); [13:1-9](#); [21:29-38](#); [John 1:43-51](#); and [James 3:12](#). According to these passages, is the fig tree a positive or negative thing? What are the different ways the fig tree presented us in the Bible? Why was the fig tree so important?
4. Read [Mark 11:12-25](#); and [13:28-31](#). What does the fig tree symbolize? Now, read [Jeremiah 8:13](#); [Hosea 9:10](#); and [Joel 1:12](#). How do these verses coincide with [Mark 11:12-25](#); and [13:28-31](#)? What do these passages teach us about the relationship between Jesus and Israel (especially the Jewish religious leaders)? What is Jesus trying to teach His disciples?
5. How does [James 2:14-26](#) relate to [Luke 19:8-9](#)?