

(All together on one slide)

Stories

Characters

Labels

(Come up one line at a time)

Words said about us **weigh** on us

**Labels** always bring a **message**

Luke 19:1-10

“He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. 4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.” 6 So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully. 7 All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.” 8 But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.” 9 “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.””

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Zacchaeus:

- Chief tax collector
- Sinful man

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Zacchaeus’ story:

- Outcast
- Greedy
- Gossiped about
- Lacked community

Something had happened **inside** of Zacchaeus, and it made him **willing** to climb a tree to get near Jesus

Luke 18:18-27

18 A ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked him. “No one is good except God alone. 20 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and mother.” 21 “I have kept all these from my youth,” he said. 22 When Jesus heard this, he told him, “You still lack one thing: Sell all you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 23 After he heard this, he became extremely sad, because he was very rich. 24 Seeing that he became sad, Jesus said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 Those who heard this asked, “Then who can be saved?” 27 He replied, **“What is impossible with man is possible with God.”**

Comparisons:

- Rich ruler walks away from Jesus sad
- Zacchaeus walks to Jesus with joy

Comparisons:

- Rich ruler is unwilling to trust Jesus with His wealth
- Zacchaeus is willing to trust Jesus with his wealth

Comparisons:

- Rich ruler’s story doesn’t change
- Zacchaeus has become a part of Jesus’ bigger story

Jesus **saved** Zacchaeus by **changing** Zacchaeus

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Saved = forgiven

Saved = forgiven, adopted, and changed by the Holy Spirit to live a new life in Christ

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Jesus’ invitation turned Zacchaeus’ **greed** into generosity

- Labels **harden** hearts; invitations **soften** hearts

Faith in Jesus will look **foolish** to a greed-filled world

Ephesians 2:19

So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow **citizens** with the saints, and members of **God's household**,

Trusting Jesus is letting Him redefine the way you view **yourself and others**

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

16 From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a **worldly perspective**. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we **no longer** know him in this way. 17 Therefore, if anyone is **in** Christ, he is a **new creation**; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! 18 Everything is **from** God, who has **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and has **given us** the ministry of **reconciliation**. 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, **not counting** their trespasses against them, and he has **committed** the message of reconciliation to **us**.

Trusting Jesus is letting Him redefine the way you view **the church**

(Keep formatting, come up one at a time)

- Preferences go from negotiable to non-negotiable
- We look more for opportunities to share our opinions than we do opportunities to share the gospel
- We listen more to people online and less to people in our rows

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, since **God is making his appeal through us**. We **plead** on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." 21 He made the one who did not know sin to **be sin for us**, so that in him we might become the **righteousness of God**.