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Hey leaders! Throughout our summer series, "Stories Worth Sharing", we're excited to help our church see the character of Jesus and that we all have impactful stories to share. Just like we'll hear the Gospel in these stories, people can hear the Gospel through OUR stories!

Thank you for shepherding a group of people to Love God, Love Others, and Live Sent!

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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**"Long before Zacchaeus couldn't see Jesus,
the tree was already planted to meet his need."**

[Unknown]

LEADER RESOURCES || Leader Note *We do our best to equip, empower, and encourage you to shepherd your group well. Access a resource by clicking on the underlined title and share them with your group!*

- **Passage Summary**
 - Jesus passes through Jericho, where he encounters Zacchaeus, a wealthy and despised tax collector. Zacchaeus, eager to see Jesus, climbs a sycamore tree due to his short stature. Jesus spots him, calls him down, and announces that He will stay at Zacchaeus' house. Zacchaeus joyfully welcomes Him and pledges to repay anyone he has cheated four times over. Jesus declares that salvation has come to Zacchaeus' house, affirming that the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.
- **Luke Ch. 19 Commentary & Is Zacchaeus a Person of Peace?**
 - Use this commentary and short article for background and encouragement. These would be good resources to share before you gather.
- **The Miracle of Being Seen**
 - This would be an encouraging resource to share with your group after you gather.

ENGAGE & CONNECT || Leader Note *The goal for the icebreaker is to prepare your group for the conversation ahead by connecting with one another's hearts and building joy together.*

Describe a time in your life when you were noticed by those around you. How did that make you feel and/or what impact did it have on you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER || Leader Note *Begin your time together by thanking God for his presence and praying His word back to Him. Ask a few people to pray, beginning in a posture of humility and dependence!*

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their cry."

[Psalm 34:15]

BIG IDEA || Leader Note Read this aloud so your group knows what the theme of today's discussion is.

Trusting Jesus gives Him the space to redefine the way you view yourself and others.

PASSAGE || Leader Note Have someone read the passage aloud slowly. Consider having another person read it aloud again (possibly in a different translation) or use [Dwell](#) to listen to it read aloud.

- Luke 19:1-10

DISCUSSION || Leader Note Your role is to FACILITATE the conversation, so keep your group moving and encourage multiple people to share, looking for opportunities to point out the grace and glory of God! Here are two REMINDERS: 1) Every question does NOT have to be answered ... there is freedom to go where the Spirit leads! 2) The answers do NOT have to be read aloud ... they are simply there for guidance!

1. What motivated Zacchaeus to seek Jesus despite his wealth and social status? *Zacchaeus was likely motivated by a deep sense of emptiness and longing for something meaningful in his life. Hearing about Jesus and His teachings may have sparked hope in Zacchaeus that he could find true peace and purpose.* How can Zacchaeus' eagerness to see Jesus inspire us in our own spiritual journey?
2. In the sermon we heard, *"Something happened inside of Zacchaeus, and it made him willing to climb a tree to get near Jesus."* Describe a time in your own life when you had an experience of needing to get near Jesus because something happened inside of you. *This is a good opportunity to go first!*
3. What does Jesus' willingness to stay at Zacchaeus' house tell us about His mission? *His willingness to stay at Zacchaeus' house signifies His mission to seek and save the lost, regardless of their social or moral standing. It shows that Jesus reaches out to those who are despised and marginalized, offering them acceptance and the chance for redemption.*
4. What is the significance of Zacchaeus addressing Jesus as "Lord"? *By addressing Jesus as "Lord," Zacchaeus acknowledged His authority and divinity. It signified a recognition of Jesus as the master of his life, indicating a willingness to submit to Jesus' teachings and leadership.* In what area of your own life have you been hesitant to address Jesus as Lord? What is holding you back from doing that?
5. How does Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' presence demonstrate true repentance? *Zacchaeus' response demonstrates true repentance through his actions. He voluntarily offers to give half of his possessions to the poor and repay anyone he has cheated four times the amount. This shows a genuine change of heart and a commitment to make amends for his wrongdoings.*
6. What can we learn from Zacchaeus' willingness to make restitution for his past wrongs? *We learn that true repentance involves not just feeling sorry for past wrongs but also taking concrete steps to make things right. It requires humility, honesty, and a proactive approach to addressing the harm done to others.* How might God be inviting you to do something similar today?
7. Why did Jesus declare that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house? *Jesus declared that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house because his actions demonstrated a sincere faith and repentance. His transformation was evidence that he had truly accepted Jesus and His message, aligning his life with the principles of the Kingdom of God.*
8. What lessons can we learn from Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus about showing grace and acceptance to others? *We learn that showing grace and acceptance involves reaching out to people where they are, without judgment or prejudice. It means offering them love and a chance to change, just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. This approach can lead to profound transformations in people's lives.*

9. How does Zacchaeus' story challenge our views on wealth and generosity? *Zacchaeus challenges us to view wealth not as an end in itself but as a means to bless others. It encourages us to be generous and to use our resources to help those in need, reflecting a heart transformed by Jesus' teachings.*
10. In the sermon we heard, "*Jesus' invitation turned Zacchaeus' greed into generosity.*" How is God challenging and inviting you to turn your own greed into generosity?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE || Leader Note *This is an opportunity for people to put into practice what the Spirit is inviting them to do and live in obedience to God for the sake of love! You can encourage your group to be accountable to one another and use these to follow up with one another throughout the week.*

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we receive our invitation to join in the amazing mission that Jesus started to seek and save the lost: "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.'"

Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting, **what is a step of obedience that you can take as part of that mission?** Here are a few ways to consider being an ambassador to people from all walks of life ...

- How can you be more aware of and open to everyday opportunities?
- How can you be ready to share the Gospel with people of peace around you?
- How can you be prepared to share about God's goodness and grace in your own story?
 - *See the spiritual practice section below for a helpful tool!*

Give your group a few moments to reflect on their answers to the questions above. Then have your group answer the question aloud. Feel free to separate into smaller groups of 3-4 for this question.

PRAYER FOCUS || Leader Note *We want to commit to praying for OTHERS as a unified church who is dependent upon God for everything. Be intentional about saving at least 5 minutes for prayer at the end of your gathering each week to pray together. You can pray for one another as well as the prompt below!*

Seeking and Loving the Lost

- Ask our Heavenly Father to guide us to be true ambassadors of Christ, saturating our hearts with His love so that we may share it with others.
- Pray that God grants us the wisdom to speak His truth, fills us with compassion to serve those in need, and allows us to be lights in our communities to draw others closer to Him.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE *We include a monthly spiritual practice that can be shared with your group after you gather. Our hope is for this to enhance what we're learning and discussing together, so share about your experience with the practice at the beginning of your gatherings or throughout the week!*

Each of us has a story to tell how Jesus came into our lives, saved us from our sin, and called us to Himself. When we share our stories with people around us, they can see what we have in common and that the saving work of Jesus Christ is available to all who believe and trust in Him!

- [Sharing Your Story](https://rockbridge.cc/sharing-your-story) or rockbridge.cc/sharing-your-story