

Small Group Meeting on Zacchaeus

Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

Luke 19:1-10

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

Shockers – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

Blockers – something from the text that raises questions for you.

Setting the scene:

- This is the last encounter Jesus has before his entry to Jerusalem
- Note a previous encounter with a rich man in 18:18-30
- Note the crowd's attempt to stop the blind man coming to Jesus 18:35-43

Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. Name some of your favourite things and question each other: what hold do they have on you? Are you 'possessed by your possessions'?

Q2. The rich ruler 'went away sad' while Zacchaeus gives money away and repays that which he got illegally. What freed Zacchaeus to do this and how might that free you from possessiveness?

Q3. A riddle with this encounter: did Zacchaeus merely want to *see* Jesus, or did he want to *meet* him – and what's the difference?

Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by "walking the talk". What are you going to be doing this week that will help you live loose to money and possessions? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

Some new challenge ideas

1 Jesus sets Zacchaeus free

How might you help each other to be set free from those things which hinder a whole-hearted discipleship in following Jesus?

2 Jesus meets Zacchaeus

What openings might you have over Easter to talk to family, friends and neighbours about the cross and resurrection? Pray for one another that conversations may flow naturally.

Group Prayer

As a group, pray for one another this week as you reflect on how Jesus met Zacchaeus and how Jesus sets him free. Pray that you might be freed from those things that hold you back.

Pray for the interviews of candidates to be Vicar which will take place on the 12th.

Pray for our Holy Week services – we will continue to read our way through Luke as part of these.

Pray for those who will be baptised and confirmed by Bishop Tim on Easter Sunday evening.

Small Group notes will be taking an Easter break now. The next set will be the last for Luke covering the preaching from the end of the gospel on April 28th.