



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Luke 19:1-10

Message for the Week: Seeing Like Jesus

Sunday, February 2

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Share a story about when you climbed something in order to get a better view. What did you see?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 19:1-10](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

Why do you think Zacchaeus so desperately wanted to see Jesus (so much so that he was willing to climb a tree to see him)?

What do the characters (Jesus, Zacchaeus, the crowd) in these verses see? What do you see in these verses?

What does verse 7 tell us about the perspective and heart of "all the people?" What does verse 5 tell us about the perspective and heart of Jesus?

How does meeting Jesus and being seen by Jesus affect Zacchaeus? Explain.

What needs to happen for us to see other people as Jesus sees them?

How has seeing and experiencing the salvation of Jesus affected your outlook on life? Or your outlook toward others?

Take Away:

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father, forgive us for looking down on those we call "sinners." Help us to see people as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. Help us, through the Holy Spirit in us, to share the grace and love of Jesus with everyone. AMEN

"Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:

This week, when you are doing your errands, practice seeing and noticing the people around you as you think Jesus would see them.

Luke 19:1-10 - New International Version

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But 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."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:1-10 – The Message

19 ¹⁻⁴ Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

⁵⁻⁷ When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

⁸ Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."