Home Group Discussion Guide

Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message above by challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.
*The questions are a **guide** to help lead discussion.*

***Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked**, instead respond to the needs of your group. If you have new people in your group, take the opportunity to introduce each other and clarify any expectations that are present in your group (such as confidentiality).*

GETTING STARTED

1. Can you think of a time when someone surprised you by treating you differently from how you expected? What made that experience memorable?

2. What was the main challenge or idea that stood out to you from the message on Sunday?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Consider Luke 19:1-7

1. Zacchaeus was curious enough about Jesus to climb a tree, despite his position and reputation. What do you think might have motivated Zacchaeus to seek out Jesus?
    a. What stands out to you about the way Jesus responds to him?

2. The crowd saw Zacchaeus as a sinner, yet Jesus chose to publicly associate with him. What does this encounter reveal about the character of Jesus?
    a. How does Romans 5:8 help us understand Jesus' actions?

Consider Luke 19:8-10

3. Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus led to a significant change in how he treated others. What do Zacchaeus' actions reveal about the transformation taking place in his life?
    a. What does this teach us about the relationship between receiving God's grace and responding to it?

4. In verse 7, the crowd's response reveals how strongly Zacchaeus was defined by his reputation. How do labels and assumptions influence the way we relate to people?
    a. What can we learn from the difference between Jesus' response and that of the crowd?

5. Simon highlighted how the labels we place on people can lead to assumptions, which then create relational distance. Where do you see this happening in our communities, workplaces or churches?
    a. How might choosing to see people differently change the way we interact with them?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. Are there people in your life, workplace, neighbourhood or community whom you have placed in a particular box or labelled in some way?
    a. How might those assumptions be influencing your relationship with them?
    b. As we consider the way Jesus responded to Zacchaeus, what might need to change in how we see and relate to people around us? What is one practical step you could take this week?

OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Our Home Groups are the primary place for pastoral care to occur within the Church. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to pray for each other in this space.