

ENCOUNTERS

Zacchaeus

Growth Group Opener:

What's the most undignified thing you've ever done to get a good view of something?

Read Luke 19:1-10

It's not just Zacchaeus' stature that made it hard for him to see Jesus...what else contributed to the problem?

Has there been a time when you have struggled to see Jesus clearly because of the people around you, or the crowd around him?

Why is it noteworthy that Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name before they had even met?

Why do you think Jesus describes a meal with a despised tax collector as something that he must do? What does this tell us about who Jesus is and what he came for?

What do you notice in the difference between the crowd's assessment of Zacchaeus and Jesus' treatment of him?

Have you ever had to let go of an assessment you had made about someone because Jesus seemed to be calling them differently than you had labeled them?

Zacchaeus' transformation in v8 was voluntary, immediate, and tangible. Where might Jesus be inviting you to respond to him with the same kind of joyful obedience?

According to v9-10, Zacchaeus did not find Jesus...Jesus sought him. How does this shape your understanding of the gospel to know that Jesus came seeking, not just waiting for people to find him?

How might you join Jesus in seeking those who are lost?

What can we learn about God from this story?

Is there anything you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to look at more closely?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for being a God who seeks out those whom others have written off. Thank you for knowing our names. Lord, forgive us when we are part of a crowd deciding who does and who does not deserve your love and attention. Help us to listen to the Holy Spirit as he guides us to those you are seeking. In the name of Jesus, amen.