



## LC STUDY GUIDE

### Done in Sync with the "Rediscovering Jesus" Series

The Passage: Luke 19:1-10

For Life Community usage the week of 9/21/15

**Intro:** Dear LC Leader, welcome to our new teaching year, "Rediscovering Jesus." We're grateful that you can be part of this in growing, in teaching, in sharing, and in all things community.

Before getting launched into the year, spend some time asking members of your LC about their summer, getting to know new faces, and rediscovering what is good about your LC.

Intro questions:

- Describe your first impression of Jesus
- Describe a time when you realized you might have misunderstood something about Jesus

**Today's Big Idea:** Jesus is not just available and polite to the unlikely seekers, but he is far more generous with his presence and with his message of love and salvation than anyone can expect.

### Luke 19:1-10

**1** 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."

O – Some first heard this story in childhood, some for the first time more recently (Welcome!). And many of us have related to this story in different ways over the years. What were your first memories of this story? What new aspects do you appreciate more now? And is there a feature or a detail or a theme that you are rediscovering today?

I – The Romans would often use local Jewish citizens to tax their own community. Often the tax collectors traveled with security guards. Often they were dishonest and thus were despised by their community. From the context, we reasonably conclude Zacchaeus was likely all of that. Any short person will tell you that their taller and real friends let them stand in front of them so they can see. Zacchaeus not only had no friends, but was also alienated. Speculate freely why you think Zacchaeus was intrigued by Jesus and speculate what people might have said after the exchange of Jesus and Zacchaeus.

A – How are people intrigued by Jesus today? What do those around you find interesting, unusual or inspiring?

O – Jesus' reaction is equally as interesting, if not more surprising. What statements is Jesus making by inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house?

I – In verse 9, Jesus says, "Salvation comes to this house today." It's not prefaced by Zacchaeus' confession of faith but rather an offer to give half his money to the poor and pay back for what was unjustly taken. Did Zacchaeus buy his salvation or is something else happening?  
*(It's important to see that the promise Zacchaeus is making in verse 8 is an admission of guilt and a promise of repentance.)*

A – Whose house would Jesus invite himself to today? Be careful with this one.

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- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
  - b. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
  - c. Complement these questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
  - d. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
  - e. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
  - f. Application: Pace the study to conclude with "difference making" application.
  - g. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.