

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus's (and Our) Mission

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse: Luke 19:10 *“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

Lesson Focus: We will teach through one of the most treasured stories of the New Testament, the story of Zacchaeus. Last week we saw Jesus claim it was essentially “impossible” for a rich man to be saved. Well, in this story we see the impossibly awesome grace of Jesus Christ as He seeks and saves this lost rich man. We pray the kids will be as irresistibly drawn to Jesus as Zacchaeus was!

Activities and Crafts: Zacchaeus Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for ALL GRADES: Easter Invitation for Friends

Starter Activity: Luke Review Quiz

As this is our last lesson before we enter into the Passion narrative, it is a good time to have another review game. Consider getting your lesson started by challenging your kids with these TRUE-FALSE statements from our Luke 10-18 lessons. * For the one's that are false, considering asking the kids to fix the statement to make it true! *

- 1) After you believe in Jesus, He doesn't expect you to practice your faith. **FALSE** *
- 2) The Good Samaritan practiced his faith by showing mercy to his enemy. **TRUE**
- 3) Mary was mad at Martha for listening to Jesus while she did the chores. **FALSE**
- 4) Regarding prayer, Jesus said we can pray to whatever as long as we are sincere. **FALSE**
- 5) Jesus told His followers to practice readiness and be waiting for His return. **TRUE**
- 6) Christians are to practice repentance (turning from sin to God) throughout life. **TRUE**
- 7) Jesus said to wait until you are worthy before entering the gate of salvation. **FALSE**
- 8) Jesus expects His followers to “count the cost” of following Him. **TRUE**
- 9) In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus focused on how the shepherd still had 99. **FALSE**
- 10) Jesus said there is a party in heaven whenever one lost sinner is found. **TRUE**
- 11) Jesus expects His followers to stop the spread of sin. **TRUE**
- 12) Jesus expects His followers to be thankful for what they have. **TRUE**
- 13) Jesus taught us that money is the root of all sorts of evil. **FALSE**
- 14) In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man went to heaven. **FALSE**
- 15) Jesus said it's easier to pull a cow thru a needle than for the rich to be saved. **FALSE** *

Notice these last three questions reviewed some of Jesus's lessons on money and stewardship. If you were here last week, you may remember the rich ruler who declined Jesus's invitation to follow Him because he loved his wealth. * Today we are going to meet one more rich man encounter Jesus and let's see how he responds!

Bible Study:

Luke 19:1: If you were here last week, Jesus had just healed a blind man around this town of Jericho and likely caused quite a stir! This isn't the first time something miraculous happened at Jericho.

Q: Does anyone know what crazy thing happened at Jericho hundreds of years before Jesus's time (during the time of Joshua)?

A: The men of Israel marched around the walled city seven times and then God miraculously brought the huge walls down so that they could take it. (see **Joshua 6:1-5**)

Luke 19:2: And now we meet this other rich man named Zacchaeus. * Let's talk about him a little bit.

Q: What did Zacchaeus do for a living? A: He was a tax collector. And not only that, he was the **chief** of tax collectors! * Back in Jesus's day tax collectors were hated and seen as traitors to the Jewish people. * This is because they got rich taking money from fellow Jews and giving it to Rome (often over-taxing and keeping some for themselves). *

(**Teachers:** Consider bringing in some snacks but after serving them pretend to be a tax collector and unjustly collect some back to show how hated Zacchaeus was!) *

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up? I noticed none of you said tax collector! What I mostly heard were occupations that you would enjoy doing or that help other people.

Q: So why do you think Zacchaeus chose to become a tax collector? A: While we don't know for sure, I suspect that it was because he loved money. Only such a fierce love for money would cause someone to betray his people/nation and live as an outcast. *

Luke 19:3a: Despite all of his riches and wealth, he had heard enough about Jesus that he was determined to go see him. The Bible doesn't tell us what was going on in his heart to cause him to want to go see Jesus, but perhaps he had heard about or knew another tax collector that we read about earlier in Luke. Let's revisit that story now.

Luke 5:27-29: This tells the story of Levi (also known as Matthew) who was also a tax collector, but who was chosen by Jesus to follow Him. And he did! Levi was so excited about his new life as a follower of Jesus that he put together a huge feast for Jesus and invited many other tax collectors. *

Luke 5:30: And here you see how despised the tax collectors were by the religious leaders. They couldn't believe Jesus would dine with such traitors and sinners!

Luke 5:31-32: But then Jesus says something **epic** in response: It was not those who were well or "self-righteous" that He came for, but those who were sick in their "sin". You don't go to a doctor unless you are sick. In the same way, it is not until you realize how sick you are because of your sin that you go to Jesus!

Perhaps this story had spread among the tax collectors and made it to Zacchaeus? * Perhaps he had realized how "sick" he was made by his sinful love of money and was looking for healing! We don't know for sure, but it sure seems possible!

Luke 19:3b-4: Now Zacchaeus does something that shows how truly desperate he was to see Jesus. Since he was a small man, he couldn't see over the crowds.

Q: So what did he do? A: He ran and climbed up into a tree to see him! * This might not seem like a big deal to you kids, but have you ever seen a grown man in his work clothes run to a tree and then climb up into it by himself?

This reminds me of something else Jesus said a couple of weeks ago in the previous chapter: that His followers are to practice child-like faith (**Luke 18:17**). * I'm sure Zacchaeus got laughed at for behaving like a kid, but he cared more about seeing Jesus than what the crowds thought of him.

Luke 19:5: WOW! Imagine being at a parade for someone famous you desperately want to see. Maybe you are even hoping to get their autograph. And then as they approach they see you, call you by your name, and invite themselves over to your house! *

Q: What would say? A: Who me....really? You'd be flabbergasted! *

Luke 19:6: And I'm sure Zacchaeus was flabbergasted too. But he was flabbergasted with **joy**, just like you would be if this happened to you!

Luke 19:7: While Zacchaeus was flabbergasted with **joy**, the crowds were flabbergasted with **anger** (just like they were when Jesus went to Levi's house!). They couldn't believe Jesus would dine with this "worst of sinners". But let's recall Jesus's **epic** saying from earlier: *"I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

Luke 19:8: And Zacchaeus has indeed repented and turned away from his sinful love of money. For he proves it by publicly promising to practice good stewardship and honesty! So Jesus has replaced money as Zacchaeus's king and savior and so money goes back to being "just money" in his heart. *

Luke 19:9-10: Salvation has come to Zacchaeus's house! His life would never be the same now as a believer and follower of Jesus. He was "lost" in his love of money but now he has been "found". Unlike the rich ruler from last week who remained lost in his love of money, this rich man repented and there was joy not only in his house but in heaven! (**Luke 15:10**) *

Key Point: This last verse of our passage * summarizes His mission: seeking and saving the lost that they may be found. It is beautiful when one lost sinner repents and becomes a child of God. If you are "sick" in your sin, come to Jesus today! It doesn't matter how bad you think you are or what others say about you!

Q: But who is to carry on this mission now? A: The church! Believers in Jesus like you and me are called to also go out and seek the lost that they may be found! *

Next weekend is Easter weekend. Consider inviting a friend of yours who is not a believer in Jesus to join you (**Teachers:** Highlight the Easter invitation craft after the lesson!) We also have opened up registration for VBS. Invite a friend to join you at VBS this year! And pray that they would respond to Jesus just like Zacchaeus did!

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 19:1-3
Why do you think
Zacchaeus wanted to
see Jesus?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
Who would you climb up
into a tree to see?

Read Luke 19:10
What was Jesus's
mission?

