Discuss

Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name and gets into his world by having lunch with him. Jesus is great at building trust with us. This trust-building lunch is a God moment in Zacchaeus’ life. And this moment grows into a movement when Zacchaeus turns away from his selfishness and restores all that he had taken from his community.

1. Imagine the city of Jericho getting back 4x what they gave up. How might the people of Jericho view Jesus after Zacchaeus’ transformation?

2. What surprises you about how Jesus interacts with Zacchaeus?

Apply

1. Just like he did with Zacchaeus, Jesus wants to build trust with all of us. He wants to call you by name. This week, ask Jesus daily to build trust with you.

2. Jesus wants to transform all of our selfish habits (including how we spend our money) and make us more like himself. Take a moment for brief listening prayer.

Steps for Leading this Encounter with Jesus

1. Start with a game or activity to get to know each other (15 minutes)

Here are ideas for great bonding activities:
- Food - Bring some great food to share
- Game - Play something quick and fun to draw people in
  - Apples to Apples, HedBanz, UNO, etc.
- Icebreaker - Ask an engaging question to get people talking
  - “If God moved into the dorm/house next door, how would your life change?”

2. Debrief last week’s discussion (5 minutes)

Let’s take a minute to hear from anyone that came last week:
- What did you like about our discussion?
- How did you experience Jesus meeting a need in your life this week?
- How did you take a risk to display God’s generosity on campus?

3. Facilitate a discussion about the story (25 min)

- Invite someone in the group to read the story aloud.
- Ask them what they have questions about (write these down and ask them to the group along the way)
- Ask the “Discuss” questions.

A few extra questions for going deeper:

- Where do you see yourself in this story? (Checking Jesus out from afar, having him over for dinner and getting to know him, changing your life to follow him as Lord) Where do you want to be in this story?
- After Jesus comes to Zacchaeus’ house Zac makes a complete spiritual 180! His life change would be visible to everyone he knew. How can you make a spiritual 180?

4. Tell a personal story from your life (5 minutes)

- Tell a story of a time Jesus invited you to make a life change. How did that impact you and others? -or-
- Tell about a time you built trust with someone who was far from God (or when someone built trust with you when you were far from God!) What happened?

5. Ask both “Apply” questions and invite everyone to respond (10 minutes)

- Spiritual Invitation: In question 2 you are prompted to lead a brief listening prayer. This is a simple but powerful tool! Here’s what you do: Invite everyone to quiet themselves. Pray out loud and invite the Holy Spirit to speak. Ask God to bring a specific personal habit to mind for each person and leave a minute of silence. Then invite anyone who’s willing to share what came to mind. Model vulnerability by offering to share first.