

Small Group Discussion Guide
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Icebreaker:

- What occupation would you least likely do?
- When was the last time you climbed a tree?

Since only the tax collectors knew the rate required by Rome, they could inflate the rate and keep the difference. Though a Jew, Zacchaeus would have been hated as a traitor who got rich at his people's expense. For Jesus to go to his house was improper in the eyes of their fellow Jews.

Read: Luke 19:1-10

1. If you had been Zacchaeus when Jesus stopped under his tree and told him to "come down immediately," how would you have felt?
a) *afraid* b) *honored* c) *excited* d) *embarrassed* e) *suspicious* f) *surprised that Jesus knew my name*
2. Why do you think Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus's house?
a) *he wanted to talk to him about his shady business practices* b) *he wanted to show everyone that Zacchaeus was not really a sinner* c) *he knew that Zacchaeus was a seeker looking for more in life* d) *Other*
3. What motivated Zacchaeus to make restitution to those he had cheated?
a) *he felt guilty* b) *his heart was full of love and gratitude toward Jesus* c) *Zacchaeus had the gift of generosity* d) *a miracle had happened in his life* e) *Other*
4. "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham." What was Jesus saying about Zacchaeus?
5. Jesus saw the positive qualities in Zacchaeus. Who affirmed you when you were "up a tree"?
6. What is God calling you to do in your spiritual life right now?
a) *stop "watching" Jesus from a safe distance* b) *accept Jesus' invitation to get to know him better* c) *claim God's gift of salvation* d) *make amends for my wrongs* e) *become generous giver*
8. On a scale of 1 (terrible) to 10 (great), how would you describe the last week?
9. How can this group pray for you this coming week?