

Teaching Notes- Luke19:1-10

For a one-hour, interactive, inductive study using a manuscript of the text.

Note: the key to this study is to have the group generate questions based on and flowing out of the text, then spend the bulk of the time answering the questions together. In this way you interpret the text as a group. Then the teacher summarizes the main points, and leads the group in processing (“applying”) the passage.

Note: These notes are only SUGGESTIONS. It is very important for you to develop your own study, and practice it before leading it at Urbana!

1 minute- Introduction to the Study

- **context:** Jesus taught on prayer and humility in Luke chapter 18. Just before arriving in Jericho He healed a blind man who desperately sought Him. Now He is passing through Jericho.
- **For Urbana:** Last night we had a moving experience looking at our individual and corporate sin, how we worship idols rather than the true God and how that results in broken relationships, racism, injustice, etc. This morning at Urbana we are going to see how God comes to us in our brokenness and provides the way to forgiveness and restoration.

Intro. to how to enter the text:

Creative idea: Pretend you are Zacchaeus, and write an entry into Zacchaeus’ journal as he might write it at the end of this day.

OR

Review three ways to enter a text:

1. Find the specifics by answering the “newspaper questions” – who, what, when, where, how?
2. Find relationships or “connections” in the text. Are there words or phrases that repeat? That are similar? That contrast? A cause that leads to an effect? Mark them.
3. Put yourself emotionally into the story. Become a character in the story. What are you seeing, feeling, smelling, experiencing?

5 minutes. Pray, and give them time for personal study, using the ideas for entering the text you have just told them. Also, tell them to write down questions they might have: “As you are reading and studying the passage, write down any questions you may have that jump out at you from the text. Is there anything that interests or intrigues you? Anything you don’t understand?”

15 Minutes. Share observations and questions together. Just note the questions as they share them, don’t work at answering them yet. Keep this part lively.

20 minutes- (the heart of the study!) Walk through the passage again and answer in sequence the main questions that they had. Work on answers together from the text. Here are some of the main questions we hope they come up with, and some possible answers.

Question	Possible Answer
Why does the author (Luke) describe Zacchaeus in such vivid language?	In describing Zacchaeus as a <i>chief</i> tax collector (line 2), rich (line 2), short (line 3), and “a sinner” (at least described that way by the people in line 8), Luke may have been trying to show that Zacchaeus was the kind of person who was hated by the people in the town, perhaps even ostracized since he was high up in the hated Roman government, and also the kind of rich, self-satisfied sinner would not be that interested in God. He is the kind of person whose relationships with others and with God are broken.
Why does Zacchaeus climb the tree?	Luke is trying to show that Zacchaeus, in spite of being a rich sinner, was desperately seeking Jesus. Something clicked inside of him that caused him to go to great measures, and even embarrass himself publicly, to seek Jesus and find out “who Jesus was.”
Why did Jesus stop and call out to Zacchaeus, and use strong phrases like “I <i>must</i> stay at your house today?”	It was a risky and unusual thing for Jesus to stay at the house of someone considered a “sinner.” Yet, He “must” stay with Zacchaeus because this is the kind of person Jesus came for, as He says in the last sentence of the passage. Jesus was seeking Zacchaeus.
Is there any significance to the idea of “staying in your house”?	Hospitality is one of the deepest values of Middle-Eastern culture, then and now. To stay at someone’s house showed a deep commitment to that person and was a great honor for them. It cemented a relationship.
Who were the “all” (line 7) who were grumbling, and why were they so mad that Jesus stayed at Zacchaeus’ house?	The “all” were the crowds, and maybe even Jesus’ disciples, who still did not “get” the fact that Jesus’ purpose was to seek out and save the most lost, the biggest sinners who no one thought would be interested in God. “Holy” people wouldn’t stay in the house of a sinner.
Why did Zacchaeus offer to give half his money to the poor and repay people he had defrauded four times as much?	The Old Testament law (i.e. Numbers 5:7) says that a robber should pay back all he or she has stolen plus 20%. Zacchaeus offers to pay back 200%. Some think that Zacchaeus is being cynical here, or trying to impress Jesus somehow, but from the text it seems that Zacchaeus is truly touched by Jesus’ coming to be with him in his house, and that this is true repentance shown in radical obedience, obedience that will be costly for Zacchaeus.

<p>In the context of this passage, what is “salvation”?</p>	<p>Zacchaeus is seeking Jesus. Jesus is seeking Zacchaeus. When they encounter each other, Zacchaeus responds to Jesus with deep, costly repentance which overflows into social action. This is “salvation”- having Jesus come into your “house” (life), and responding with true repentance and restored relationships with Jesus and with others. It is a beautiful picture. This is what Jesus summarizes as His purpose in the last phrase of the passage.</p>
<p>Why the mention of Zacchaeus as a “son of Abraham” in the last sentence from Jesus?”</p>	<p>A part of the “salvation” that Jesus brings to Zacchaeus is a restoration of his identity as a son of Abraham, and a member of God’s community, God’s family. Jesus restores our identity as children of God, loved by Him, and as members of His community.</p>
<p>Is there any significance to the fact that this all takes place in Jericho?</p>	<p>In Joshua chapters 5-6 in the Old Testament, God judges the city of Jericho, but He does reach out and save one sinner (Rahab the Harlot) who trusts and obeys Him.</p>

5 minutes- Summary:

Jesus is passing through Jericho, a city which didn’t “get it” in the Old Testament and fell under God’s judgment. As He is passing through, a short man who is rich, hated by the people, and got rich working for the hated Roman government, shows signs of desperately seeking Jesus— embarrassing himself by climbing a tree to see “who Jesus is.” Jesus stops, calls his name, and says that He “must” do the Middle Eastern hospitality thing and stay with Zacchaeus, much to the consternation of all who know Zacchaeus to be an oppressive sinner. Zacchaeus responds to Jesus by promising restoration to people he has cheated— a sign of radical repentance. Jesus summarizes all this by announcing that “salvation” has come to Zacchaeus’ house, and also restoring Zach’s identity as a son of Abraham. Jesus indicates that this picture of salvation is what He is here to do— seek and save the lost. Zach seeks Jesus, Jesus seeks Zach, Zach responds with radical faith, and the result is “salvation.”

10 minutes- Process/apply. (Don’t “skimp” on this time!!)

POSSIBLE application questions, depending on where God is has been leading the group as they see the main points of the passage. Pick no more than two:

Who do you identify with in this story? Why?

Think through your story of Jesus working in your life to seek you and bring you to Himself. Praise Him for His grace in bringing salvation to you.

Zacchaeus showed his faith in ways costly to himself. What are you doing that takes real faith? Where are you stepping out in ways that will totally flop if God does not exist, or does not come through?

In what ways are you “climbing a tree” to seek Jesus? What are some of the consequences of riskily and desperately seeking Jesus? What are some of the rewards?

How is your faith affecting other people?

- *at are you doing, in response to Jesus’ love for you, to be reconciled to people that you may have offended or hurt?*
- *Even if you are “square” with people that you personally know, what are you doing to bring justice to the poor? How is Jesus love for you causing you to respond with justice to those hurt by society?*

How is your relationship to Jesus helping you understand your true identity as a child of God who is loved unconditionally by Him? In what areas of your life are you still living in guilt, or living as if God is a hateful, mean, unpleasable parent? How are you appropriating God’s unconditional love in your life?