

IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE

LUKE 19:1-10

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - MARCH 29, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What person or people around you do you believe will never be open to faith in Jesus? Who might you consider 'too far gone' to ever fully commit to faith in Jesus?

SERMON RECAP

In today's passage, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. But what he did not realize was that Jesus already saw him. When you or someone you love seems too far gone to ever turn that spiritual corner, here are reminders to hold onto from this passage:

- Jesus pursues even the most unreachable people.
- Jesus saves even the most unworthy people.
- Jesus transforms even the most ungodly people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Luke 19:1-10 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 - Where did this passage take place? (Luke 19:1)
 - Who participated in the events of this passage? (Luke 19:1-3)
 - How is Zacchaeus described in this passage? (Luke 19:2b-3)
 - How did the crowd describe Zacchaeus in this passage? (Luke 19:7)
 - What actions did Zacchaeus take to see Jesus? (Luke 19:4)
 - When Jesus encountered Zacchaeus, what did Jesus do? What did he say? (Luke 19:5)
 - How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus? (Luke 19:6, 8)
 - What was Jesus' final response to Zacchaeus? (Luke 19:9-10)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. In verses 2b-3, Zacchaeus is described as a chief tax collector, rich, and small in stature. Why might these details be important to the message of this passage? How might they add to the overall meaning of the passage?
2. In verse 4, Zacchaeus ran ahead and climbed a tree to see Jesus. Why might he have taken this action?
3. What might be the significance of Jesus addressing Zacchaeus by name? (verse 5)
4. Why might Zacchaeus have recounted his deeds to Jesus? (verse 8)
5. Observe Jesus' final response to Zacchaeus in verses 9-10. On what basis did salvation come to Zacchaeus' house? (cf. Rom 4:16; Matt 1:1; Matt 15:24; Ezekiel 34:16; Luke 19:5)
6. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Recall Luke 19:5 and read Isaiah 40:18-31 and Psalm 139:7-12. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and addressed him by name. The everlasting God, the LORD of all creation likewise sees you - specifically, uniquely, intimately, always. Reflect on this reality. What does this reality stir up in your heart? What thoughts does it bring up?
2. What holds you back from surrendering your entire life to Jesus? Reflect on and pray about these hindrances. As you do,

read and reflect on Luke 18:40-43 as well as Luke 7:50, 8:48, and 17:19.

3. Consider Luke 19:3-4 alongside 2 Corinthians 5:17. What are you willing to do in order to receive your personal, direct encounter and relationship with Jesus? What active steps might you take today to move beyond your hindrances, in humble faith and trust in the Lord, in order to know the captivating reality and freedom of his eternal life?
4. What person or people might you see as being 'too far gone' to ever fully commit to faith in Jesus? Who have you been tempted to give up on? How might Jesus be calling you to pray for and/or approach them, in his name and for his glory? What specific form might this outreach uniquely take in this Easter season?