



Road Trips VI: Memory Lane

OPENING PRAYER

Invite a member of the group to lead prayer.

Read Luke 19:1-6

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. 2 A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn't because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today." 6 So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

During Jesus' day, tax collectors were hated and called sinners by the Pharisees. I believe it is fair to say that no one enjoys paying taxes, but why were tax collectors called sinners? They were considered traitors because they were Jews who collected taxes from their own people on behalf of the oppressive pagan Roman regime. Therefore, they further enriched their oppressors. Furthermore, tax collectors collected more than what was owed. They enriched themselves with the additional money collected. Therefore, they were considered low down, dirty cheats who would take advantage of widows and the poor.

Zacchaeus was wealthy. However, he was short in physical stature, and low in social stature within the community. He had money but he did not have the love and respect of his countrymen. In order to see Jesus, he had to rise above the jeers and looks of disdain from the crowd. The crowd was an obstacle that he had to overcome. So, Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a tree, but why did he want to see Jesus? Somehow, he heard that Jesus was passing through. Word had spread about miracles that Jesus had performed, and Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus for himself. When Jesus saw him, he asked him to come down. Jesus then extends an invitation to Zacchaeus to receive him into his home.

Jesus reaches out to Zacchaeus, a social outcast, and calls him worthy amid the crowd. This is a pattern that we develop throughout the Gospel. Jesus is always reaching out to the least, the lost, and the last. The Triune God still works in the same way today. The Good News comes by the wooing of the Father, Jesus makes the gift of salvation available to us through an invitation to welcome him into our hearts, and the Spirit sustains and empowers us. God calls us out of the crowd and offers us an invitation to be part of the family.

GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Share where you've seen God at work in your life this week.

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What are your highs and lows for this week?

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What are the obstacles that prevent you from seeing Jesus? What are some practical steps that we can take to overcome those?

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At this point in your life, would you be a member of the crowd? Or Zacchaeus? The disciples?

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Who are examples of Zacchaeus in the world today?

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What was your most impactful take away from the podcast, sermon, or curriculum?

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PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Please go around the group and have each person share a praise for this week and a prayer request/concern.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Have a volunteer lead closing prayer: asking for prayer concerns and lifting up the needs of the group.

DAILY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Please answer these during your personal devotional time at the end of the day or do it as a couple or family.

Where have you seen God today? For the children, we say, "what made you happy today?"

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What broke your heart or made you sad today?

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What good thing did you do for someone else today?

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What are you thankful for today?

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