

You Can Begin Again

When You Accept God's Invitation

Pastor E. Paul Allen – November 19, 2017

1. Read Luke 19:1-10.
2. Open in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to show the correlation between the story of Zacchaeus and our own lives as we're transformed by God's invitation.
3. Read Luke 19:1-4.
Discuss the three descriptive statements of Zacchaeus and why they were part of his story before Jesus.
 - a. Chief tax collector
 - b. He was rich
 - c. He was shortWhat descriptive statements would you use for your own life before you encountered Jesus?
4. Read Luke 19:5.
This verse indicates Jesus was "on-mission" to meet Zacchaeus.
 - a. Have you ever had a situation in your life where you were surprised by Jesus? How did you feel in that experience? If you can, would you share it with the group if you're meeting in a group.
 - b. Has the Holy Spirit ever encouraged you to be "on-mission" to share Jesus with someone who wasn't expecting to be introduced to His love? What was that like?
5. Read and discuss our second value, The Transformative Gospel of Grace.
We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to be a community that invites and seeks out the wounded, brokenhearted, and the marginalized so that they can be transformed by the Gospel of Grace into the image of Jesus, joining Him on His mission to transform the world.

We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to the belief that Grace is Jesus Himself coming to live in and through His people. Life in the Kingdom is empowered by the King of Kings, not human effort.
6. Read and discuss Luke 19:6-7 and the implications of what others might think when we're an inviting community.
7. Read Luke 19:8-9.
What did Zacchaeus do once He encountered God's love and forgiveness?
Discuss why we believe the Gospel isn't just about "me, my Bible, and Jesus" but about a family who expresses the Father's love to the world by being His heart, hands and feet.
8. One of our plumb lines here at TC states, "If our community doesn't change because we're here, then we should pack up and go home".
How did Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus change his community and discuss how our living on-mission with Jesus changes our community—both as individuals and as the family of Transformation Church? (at home, at work, at school, in our community)
9. Read Luke 19:10.
What is Jesus' mission and what does it look like for us to live out that mission in our own lives?
10. As you close in prayer, pray for the folks in your group to live on-mission with Jesus and for us to be aware of opportunities to share His upward, inward, outward love on a day-to-day basis.