

For the Family

Read together Luke 15:1-6

Explain that the people didn't like tax collectors because they worked for the Roman government, and because they cheated people. Some people were mad at Jesus because he spent time with them. So Jesus told them a parable about a shepherd who left 99 sheep safe in the pen to look for one sheep that was lost. Jesus spent time with tax collectors because they were lost, and needed to be found.

Read together Matthew 9:9-13

Explain that this is another time where the people wondered why Jesus spent time with tax collectors. Jesus explained that it is the sick who need a doctor, not those who are well.

Read together Luke 19:1-10

Explain that this is another story where the people didn't understand why Jesus would spend time with sinners. They grumbled when Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house.

But look what happened. Zacchaeus changed. He told Jesus he would give away half of his money, and he would pay back anyone he had cheated. Jesus said that salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house.

Zacchaeus met Jesus and he changed from a greedy man to a generous one, and he resolved to make up for anything he had done wrong. The Bible calls this "repentance." Zacchaeus was living a life without God. Then he met Jesus, repented, and began living a life for God.

At the end of the story, Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." When the people grumbled that Jesus spent time with sinners, Jesus reminded them that's why he came in the first place: to look for sinners and to save them.

Pray together that you are thankful that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Pray that you will join him in his mission.



The Journey of Discipleship – Luke 9-19

More Than A Children's Story

Luke 18:31-19:10

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-18:30

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus warns against hypocrisy and legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns against judging others who experience tragedy.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.
- Jesus tells a story encouraging his disciples to invest in people, in preparation for the coming age.
- Jesus contrasts the rich man and Lazarus.
- Jesus challenges his disciples about temptation and forgiveness.
- A Samaritan leper is healed and thanks Jesus.
- Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus teaches about persistent and humble prayer.
- Jesus challenges a rich young ruler to put his faith in him and not his wealth.

Read Luke 18:31-19:10

Jesus Foretells His Death & Resurrection 18:31-34

Read Luke 9:21-22; 43-45

Why do you think the disciples had a hard time understanding what Jesus was talking about in these passages?

How do you think you might have reacted to what Jesus was saying, if you had lived then?

When did they come to understand these things?
What made the difference?
(Read Luke 24:13-27)

What does it say about them that they followed Jesus into Jerusalem even though they didn't understand why he was going there?

Reflect

Can you think of a time when you followed Jesus even though you weren't sure where he was taking you?

Healing a Blind Beggar 18:35-43

From this story, what do we know about the beggar's situation?
His faith?
His intensity?

How does his blindness compare with that of the disciples in verse 34?

What evidence do you see in this story about the man's faith?

Why did the people tell him to be quiet?
What do they fail to see about Jesus and his kingdom?

Why do you think Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

After his healing, the man followed Jesus. What is the connection between healing and discipleship?

Reflect

How does your faith compare to the faith of the blind beggar?

If Jesus asked "What do you want me to do for you?" what would you say?

What role has healing played in your discipleship?

Jesus and Zacchaeus 19:1-10

What do you think made Zacchaeus curious about Jesus?

Compare and contrast the story of Zacchaeus with the story of the Rich Young Ruler (18:18-30).

Why do you think Jesus sought out Zacchaeus?
Why do you think he invited himself to Zacchaeus' house?

Why does the crowd mutter about Jesus' dining with Zacchaeus?

Do you think Jesus' words in vss. 9-10 stopped their grumbling?
Why or why not?

Read Luke 4:16-21.

What does this add to our understanding of Jesus' mission?

Reflect

How would you respond if Jesus said to you, "Hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today"?

Where did Jesus first find you?

How did he get you to repent and follow him?

Next Steps

- I need to stop "watching" Jesus from a safe distance.
- I need to accept Jesus' invitation to get to know him better.
- I need to make amends for wrongs done to others.
- I will join in the mission of seeking and saving the lost.

Memory Verse – Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.