



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, October 16, 2011

Open Doors

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Note to Group Leaders:

Leaders, we have put more questions here than you may be able to use. The purpose of this is that certain questions will work for certain groups and so some of these questions will not be good ones for your group. So, pick and choose what works best for your group.

Introduce it:

All kinds of things can drastically change a person's life. We see often a person that is going one direction and something drastic happens in their life to suddenly make them begin going the other direction. Share examples of how you have seen this: someone that you know personally, could be you, a TV show (Extreme Makeover for example), could be a good change or a bad change. Share why the change happened.

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read the passage again as a group: Luke 19:1-10

Imagine being Zacchaeus. List all the reasons you can think of as to why he couldn't get through the crowd to see Jesus. Take time to really let yourself be him and imagine what was going on at that time. Why do you think he wanted to see Jesus?

Now imagine being in the crowd with Jesus, walking through town, and suddenly Jesus stops and looks up into a sycamore fig tree to find Zacchaeus. What do you know believe is going through Zacchaeus' head as everyone in the crowd is staring at him? What are you thinking as a member of the crowd?

Jesus calls him by name and makes this statement: "Zacchaeus, come down immediately, I must stay at your house today." Knowing that throughout the bible, a person's home is a symbol of their life, compare these words of Jesus to Zacchaeus to these words in Revelation 3:20: *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they with me."*

Zacchaeus was described in the sermon as "curious" about Jesus and curiosity was described as "having to know more while preferring to stay anonymous." Can you remember a time when you were curious about Jesus? What made you decide to let him come into your "home"?

What was Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' invitation? List all the ways his life was drastically changed that day.

Relook at it: see other places in the Bible that speak to sermon.

There is another place in the OT that God reveals himself to someone through a tree/bush.

Read Exodus 3:1-14; 4:1, 10-13

What is similar about this passage and the Zacchaeus passage?

What is different about God's call to Moses and Jesus' call to Zacchaeus?

Compare and Contrast the response of Moses and Zacchaeus.

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

In Luke and in Exodus, God is calling for a response. As we have gone through this sermon series together, what are the things in which God is calling you to respond to?

In things that God has called you to move and act upon, how have you responded like Zacchaeus-immediate change; and how have you responded like Moses-finding various reasons to not do what he calls you to do.

What specific steps do you need to tell the group today that you will take to act on things God is calling you to take action?

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

Luke 19:6 -- "So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly."

Pray that God would allow your heart to respond in this way to him always. Write it on a note card and put on your bathroom mirror or on the dashboard of your car. If you have children, talk about this passage with them and tell them you need their help to memorize this verse. Ask them to memorize it with you. Let them quiz you during the week.