

# MY UNIQUENESS

One of the most exciting stories in the Bible- the "little guy" up a tree who Jesus picked out of the crowd because he was special and didn't know it. This man, though a Jew, was a tax collector for the ruling Romans. In those days, tax collectors were hated even more than they are today-because they were known for cheating and were considered traitors.

## **ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:1-10

1. If you were going to make a movie about this Bible story, who would you choose to play the part of Zacchaeus-the little guy/tax collector up a tree?  Danny DeVito  Tim Allen  
 Martin Short  Jay Leno  Robin Williams  Jim Carey  Jerry Seinfeld

2. If you had been Zacchaeus when Jesus stopped under his tree and told him to "come down immediately," how would you feel?  scared  spitless  special  
 embarrassed  suspicious  surprised that he knew my name

3. If you had been Zacchaeus at the end of the story, how would you feel?  clean inside  
 loved  included in God's family  broke  brand new

4. Jesus saw the positive qualities in Zacchaeus. Who really affirmed you when you were a kid and felt like a "little guy up a tree"?  
 my mother  my father  my brother or sister  another family member  
 a close friend  a teacher or coach  a special person at church  other:

5. How do the various people in your life see you now? Choose one or two of the following, and give two adjectives. MY PARENTS see me as ... MY TEACHERS / SUPERVISORS see me as ...  
MY CLOSE FRIENDS see me as ... PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL see me as ...

6. In all honesty, how do you see yourself right now? Put an "X" on the lines below.  
I put myself down.-----I build myself up.  
(I'm no good and never will be.) (I am created in the image of God

self-defeating attitude -----self-confident attitude  
(I don't want to try because I know I'll fail.) (I can do everything through Christ.)

7. Where do you put yourself down?  
 knowledge-I'm not as smart as ...  looks-I'm not as good-looking as ...  
 willpower-I'm not as strong as ...  success-I'm not as successful as ...  
 personality-I'm not as well-liked as ...  physical fitness-I'm not in as good of shape as ...  
 abilities-I'm not as talented as ...

8. How do you feel about sharing personal things in your life with others?  
 uncomfortable-I don't talk about these things.  thrilled-I love this stuff!  
 scared-I don't know if I want to talk about these things.  I'm not sure.  
 fine-No problem, our group trusts each other.

9. On a scale of 1 (TERRIBLE) to 10 (GREAT), how would you describe the last week? How can this group pray for you?