

MY UNIQUENESS

Introduction

You will be looking at one of the most exciting stories in the Bible—the story of 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.

We recommend that you move into groups of 4 because it is easier to discuss things when you are in a smaller group—and you can finish the discussion in 30 minutes.

Now, listen to the Bible story. Then, quickly move into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire.

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

ZACCHAEUS THE TAX COLLECTOR

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”

⁸But 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.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

Luke 19:1–10

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. For instance, "MY PARENTS see me as ... immature and rebellious."
- MY PARENTS/SPOUSE see me as ... (two adjectives)
 - 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'm no good and never will be.) | _____ | I build myself up.
(I am created in the image of God.) |
| self-defeating attitude
(I don't want to try because I know I'll fail.) | _____ | self-confident attitude
(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.
 - scared—I don't know if I want to talk about these things.
 - fine—No problem, our group trusts each other.
 - thrilled—I love this stuff!
 - I'm not sure.
9. On a scale of 1 (TERRIBLE) to 10 (GREAT), how would you describe the last week? How can this group pray for you?

