

NOTES TO LEADERS: *So*

SHARE IT

John Lennon and Paul McCartney wrote a song called "Help." . . . Would you have thought he needed help? Why?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The purpose of this question is to start people thinking about seeing the needy people in their lives.*

LISTEN TO GOD IN THE BIBLE

Read through one of the astounding stories about Jesus is found in Luke 19:1-10.

In the story just prior (18:35-43), what was the need? What did Jesus do?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus healed a blind man who immediately followed Jesus. The question arises: Why is this story positioned next to a story about a man whom others probably thought was the unlikely to follow Jesus?*

Who are the main players? Who all is in the audience?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus, the twelve, the crowd, the healed man (chapter 18), Zacchaeus and his friends, and God's people for 2,000 years including us.*

Who was Zacchaeus? What did he want? What actions did he take?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *He was seeking to "see" Jesus. (Cf. the idea of "seeing in chapter 18. People need to "see" Jesus if they are going to be healed.) There were two reasons for his climbing a tree: (1) He was short, and (2) he was hated and probably no one wanted him near them and they probably wouldn't let him down front with the children. His actions showed extraordinary efforts for a wealthy man in that culture.*

What were Jesus' actions in this story? (Please list)

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- (1) Walking through Jericho*
- (2) Stopped and looked up*
- (3) Spoke to Zacchaeus*
- (4) Invited him to his (Zacchaeus') house*
- (5) Affirmed his faith and confirmed that this was a salvation experience*
- (6) Confirmed again his mission to "seek and save the lost"*

How was His invitation perceived by the people? By Zacchaeus?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The crowd grumbled. Zacchaeus welcomed the opportunity, called Jesus "Lord," showed signs of a changed heart about his business and money, and expressed faith that Jesus described as "salvation" coming to his house.*

How does Jesus explain His actions? How might this connect with the prior story?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Jesus considers this an occasion when someone who was "lost" has now experienced "salvation" and that this is in keeping with His mission / why He came.*

DISCUSS IT TOGETHER

What would this story be like in today's world? (Who? What? How?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The question means, who is like Zacchaeus in our world? How are we 'seeing' people like this? Do we believe that there are people like this in our world?*

How does this story reveal the heart of God and the mission of Jesus?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *While this may seem obvious, it bears repeating:*

- *God sent His Son because sinners need Jesus*
- *God cares about every person, even those that we don't like*
- *God knows the hearts and minds of people including those who are seeking*
- *Jesus is our example and model of receiving even 'the worst' who seek Him*

What might Jesus say to His followers at Trinity Church about this story?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Here are a few thoughts:*

- *What do you seek? (chapter 18) Do you want the healing that only I can give? This healing includes the healing of the heart towards God's people. Are you willing to continue my mission?*
- *As I have loved you, love the people in your world. This is going to require you to see people differently than the way the world sees them.*
- *The world is not going to affirm you as you continue my mission "to seek and save the lost."*
- *When you see people "up a tree," stop and invite them in. Whoever is willing, love and help them find the healing that I can give. Help them to know that all are welcome, all can find eternal life in Me.*

Who in your world is 'up a tree?' What do you notice about them?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *This is a good time to go beyond the "list" that we made. Allow some time for people to think through the people in their worlds. Challenge one another to be on the alert even this week.*

Yesterday, Todd suggested that we (1) make a list, (2) pray, (3) invest lovingly, (4) invite, and (5) live a "rooted" life. How can we help one another do this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *We are doing mission together. We can pray and encourage one another, we can coach and give ideas to one another, and we can team up in opportunities to bring friends to something (an event, a meal, a gathering, a celebration, etc.)*

***May the Holy Spirit guide and encourage you as you shepherd His people,
Steve***