



Leader's Guide for the Sermon, "Jesus Reaches Through"

Luke 19:1–10 | Pastor Dave Bennett | Series: Courage to Reach | November 16, 2025

Session Overview

This week's discussion explores the surprising, disruptive grace of Jesus as He reaches out to Zacchaeus...

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question: "Share a time when God worked in an unexpected way..."

Purpose: To help the group reflect...

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

- Read Luke 19:1–10 aloud.
- Optional: Have a volunteer read again...

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.

Discussion Questions

1. In the sermon, we meet Reuben—a desperate man hoping for Jesus’ help—who feels overlooked. How do you relate to Reuben’s disappointment when Jesus seems to pass him by?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Explore moments where God felt distant yet was working.

2. Jesus publicly calls Zacchaeus by name. Why do you think Jesus chose to engage him so publicly rather than privately?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Highlight the communal impact of salvation.

3. Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus. What are some ways you’ve “climbed a tree” spiritually?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Encourage reflection on spiritual habits and hunger.

4. The crowd mutters when Jesus chooses Zacchaeus. What “crowd noise” today makes it difficult to extend grace?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Discuss judgment, shame, and internal criticism.

5. Zacchaeus responds with radical restitution. What does genuine repentance look like?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Repentance is visible transformation.

6. Salvation rescues us from “having to sin.” How does identity in Christ reshape our choices?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Real change flows from identity.

7. Zacchaeus’ transformation blesses an entire town. Who has Jesus “reached through” in your life?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Invite personal stories.

8. What might it look like for Jesus to “reach through you” this week?

Leader Note: Leader Note: Encourage practical steps.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

- Identify one area where Jesus wants to reach through you.
- Pray for courage.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You for reaching toward us with transforming grace...