

If my people pray

Praying for the Lost – Luke 19:1-10 Message Reflection Guide

Lachlan Macquarie, governor of New South Wales from 1810-1821, had a way of making everyone feel included in the new colony. When the “exclusives” (free settlers, civil servants, and military officers) shunned the society of the “emancipists” (transported convicts given conditional or absolute pardon), Governor Macquarie insisted that they be treated as social equals.

Jesus showed interest in Zacchaeus, a shunned tax collector in Jericho, and included him in the recipients of His salvation plan (Luke 19:1-10). A marginalized and hated man because of his profession, Zacchaeus was desperate to see Jesus and climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Him. When Jesus passed by, He saw Zacchaeus’ desire and told him to come down because he had a divine appointment at his house. Some complained that Jesus was spending time with a sinner. His loving attention changed Zacchaeus’ life. He repented and offered restitution for those he had defrauded. Salvation had come to his house.

Jesus’ mission was simple: Diligently search for lost people, whatever their social standing, and offer them God’s salvation plan. As followers of Christ, we too have that as our mission.

Conversation Starter

Share an example of a time when someone’s acceptance made a difference in your life.

Getting Into The Scriptures

Read aloud Luke 19:1-10

Who is seeking whom in this story, do we think? (That is, is Jesus seeking Zacchaeus? Is Zacchaeus seeking Jesus? Are they seeking each other? Is there any other option?) How is the seeker doing the seeking?

In the Christian and Missionary Alliance we often say “Lost people matter to God.” Why do you think that is important? How do your actions reflect that lost people matter to you?

The religious leaders in this story didn’t believe Zacchaeus deserved to have Jesus talk with him. How can you fight against the attitude that some people are more deserving of grace while others have fallen too far away?

Why do you believe prayer is an important part of reaching your lost neighbors, friends and family members?

What part of the missionary’s message spoke to you? How do you feel challenged to pray for missions and missionaries?

Making It Real

Who are you praying for and trying to reach for Christ? Share the names of at least 3 people and pray for those people every day this week. Ask God for an opportunity to share your faith with those people.