

IMAGINE



Big Idea: Imagine a place where people, changed by God's grace, gather together to pursue Jesus and offer their lives for the cause of His kingdom! Imagine a place where everyone matters, hope is abundant, grace is free, and generosity overflows. Imagine a place filled with men and women who share a commitment to go out into the ordinary spaces of life to live and love like Jesus. That place would be a taste of heaven on earth.

Imagine a Place Where . . . Jesus' Heart Captivates Ours

Luke 19:1-10

IMAGINE : MISSION - Jesus came to help people find their way back to God.

Week 1

Capture our Attention-

- a. Just for Fun! Sometimes an effective function gets lost through adaptation. "New and improved" is not always accomplished. Other times, great discoveries are found in looking at something familiar in a new way. Divide into groups of three and see which group can imagine the most possible useful purposes of a "mason jar" in 60 seconds. Celebrate the most helpful innovation idea.

- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday's sermon. What insight or truth from the message did God allow to capture your attention? What are you doing to live out the implications of that truth?

Enlighten our Mind-

1. Do a quick review of Luke chapters 18 and 19 to identify whether Jesus or individuals (or both) took the initiative in each situation. List your findings in the space below.

Luke 18:1-8

Luke 19:1-10

Luke 18:9-14

Luke 19:11-27

Luke 18:15-17

Luke 19:28-40

Luke 18:18-30

Luke 19:41-44

Luke 18:31-34

Luke 19:45-48

Luke 18:35-43

What do you learn about Jesus' purpose from His actions and responses?

2. Look more closely at the description of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). What barriers could have hindered him from pursuing Jesus? What might have motivated Zacchaeus to try to overcome these obstacles in finding his way to Jesus?

Do people like Zacchaeus go out of their way to be with you because you live like Jesus?

3. What do verses 5-7, & 10 reveal about the purpose of Jesus? What actions demonstrated His purpose? What obstacles did Jesus have to overcome to live out His purpose?

Who went out of their way to intentionally help you find your way to Him?

4. In this part of His encounter with Zacchaeus (v. 1, 5-6), does Jesus focus His attention on *information* or *relationship*? What leads you to respond as you did? Why is this so important to Jesus?

Read Philippians 2:5-8 and note how Jesus modeled relationships in that passage.

5. What changes occur in Zacchaeus as a result of this encounter with Jesus (verses 8-9). What information do you think Jesus might have shared over the meal to prompt Zacchaeus to respond in this way?

Consider some things that Jesus had taught on other occasions? How might these teachings influenced Zacchaeus's decisions?

- Luke 5:27-32 - Calling Matthew to follow
- Luke 6:24-36 - Sorrows of the wealthy and popular
- Luke 6:46-49 - Wise and foolish builders
- Luke 10:30-37 - Story of the Good Samaritan

Vision of Transformation-

Bringing Lesson to Life.

- a. What is it about Jesus? Just like with Zacchaeus, every encounter with Him compels a response! Why is it hard to remain the same when you experience the life of Jesus?
- b. How does the demonstration of Jesus' purpose with Zacchaeus (and stated in verse 10) compel you to live differently in your neighborhood, workplace, school, family?

Be committed to the five habits of Jesus' Life:

 1. **Bless** three people each day by showing them God's love,
 2. **Eat** with three people each week,
 3. & 4. **Listen** to and **Learn** from Jesus each week,
 5. **Share** the insight you learn with three people each week.
- c. Zacchaeus told the people in his home two of the changes he was going to make. How can sharing your commitment to change help you live the life Jesus is inviting you to live? Share the changes you are compelled to make with two or three people in your group. Pray together about living out that change.
- d. Do you need to increase the *relationship* component or the *information* component of how you are loving people like Zacchaeus around you? How will you grow in that area?

Pray an "Imagine" prayer for your group, neighborhood and city to find their way back to God.