

● **No matter how others see me**

“So he (Zacchaeus) came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’” **Luke 19:6-7 NIV**

● **No matter how stuck I am**

“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.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.’” **Luke 19:8-9 NIV**

“Jesus looked at him and said, ‘How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ Those who heard this asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus replied, ‘What is impossible with man is possible with God.’” **Luke 18:24-27 NIV**

● **No matter how far I gone**

Jesus — “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” **Luke 19:10 NIV**

WHO CAN I INVITE TO JESUS’ OPEN TABLE?

WILL I ACCEPT JESUS’ INVITATION AND WELCOME HIM IN?

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” **John 1:12 NLT**

Next Week...

Open To All Who Feel Unaware



Ron Thompson
AUGUST 5, 2018

Open To All Who
Feel Unacceptable

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’” **Luke 7:34 NIV**

FOUR WAYS WE TRY TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE

Appearance

Approval

Achievement

Affluence

Believe That Jesus Accepts Me...

● **No matter how insignificant I feel**

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’” **Luke 19:1-5 NIV**



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to find Jesus at the table when we feel unacceptable.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: What type of people, vocations or behaviors are considered unacceptable today? Do you think that has that changed over time? How are they generally treated by our society?

BECOME like Jesus:

1. This week, we focused on the passage of Scripture in which Jesus invited Himself over to Zacchaeus' house to stay. Read Luke 19:1-10. How did Zacchaeus respond? How did the crowd respond? Do you think Zacchaeus or the crowd was more surprised by Jesus' declaration? Why?
2. Read Galatians 4:13-15. How might Paul have been seen as "unacceptable" to the Galatians? How did the Galatians respond?
3. Read James 2:1-9. What does this passage teach us about accepting the "unacceptable?" While this passage relates to the poor in the fellowship, could it also relate to the rich or the wealthy? How does this passage relate to the story of Zacchaeus?

4. Read Jeremiah 18:1-11. In this passage, the form of the clay became unacceptable in the potter's hand. What did he in turn do with the marred vessel? What does this passage have to teach us about God and the unacceptable?
5. Read Exodus 15:22-26. In this excerpt of Scripture, it is the water that is unacceptable. What was the people's response? What was the Lord's response? What was Moses' response? Can you see any correlation between this passage and our teaching on Zacchaeus?

BLESS others:

With what projects can our church or community group be involved to help people who seem "unacceptable?"

BUILD God's kingdom:

Read Ephesians 2:1-7. How should the knowledge of where God has brought us from affect how we treat those that are considered unacceptable?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

Does God need to change your heart with regards to how you view the unacceptable? If so, how? Take some time to pray accordingly.

PRAYER: What challenge are you facing this week? How can our group pray and support you?

August 5, 2018



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