

# TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 10, 2024

Guest Speaker, Mark Buchanan

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 10, 2024.*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 25:1-10*

## **Content Overview:**

*Read aloud together, Luke 19:1-10. Mark Buchanan taught on this passage, highlighting the following:*

- As a tax collector, Zaccheaus would have been despised by those in Jericho. It should shock us that Jesus interacts with him in a positive way, let alone goes to his house. This follows Jesus' pattern of seeking out the most seemingly underserving people. Jesus sought out those, who from a Jewish understanding, He shouldn't have been near.
- Mark Buchanan highlighted the context in which Luke records this story:
- First, Jesus' teaching on children. Zaccheaus demonstrates the child-likeness that Jesus references in 18:15, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."
- Receptivity is the quality of a child that Jesus wants us to have. Zaccheaus exemplifies child-like receptivity.
- Mark told a story of a preacher who attempted to give \$20 away but was met only by resistance and skepticism among adults. Children, however, ambitiously sought to receive it. Mark encouraged us to learn from the children when we consider the gifts that Jesus wants to give us (19:9).
- The second contextual story was the rich young ruler (Lk. 18:18-25), who rejects Jesus' invitation to give everything away, which is how we read Zaccheaus responds to Jesus.
- The third important contextual reality, highlighted by Mark, is that this story takes place during Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Jesus is able to welcome people like Zaccheaus because He Himself is going to climb a tree and go out on a limb, giving not half, but all that He Has so that anyone who says they want in on the inheritance will receive it.
- Mark invited us to see ourselves in the place of Zaccheaus. No matter how we find ourselves, would we too hear the words of Jesus, "You are my child, I love you, I am pleased with you, and I want to give you the whole inheritance."

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Luke 19:1-10?
2. In what ways do you respond to Jesus with skepticism or resistance rather than child-like receptivity? How might your response to Jesus look more like a child's? (Mark described a practice of receptivity in his daily morning prayer)
3. While Zachcheaus' receptivity of Jesus was in light of his initial salvation, in what ways do we continue to receive from Jesus as we mature in our faith? How might we resist these, or expectantly receive them?
4. Who are the "despised", the people you would rather not associate with, in your contexts? How might you model Jesus' compassion, love, and pursuit to them?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.

