Bible Stories for Adults

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Opening

Gathering: What ways have you seen people respond enthusiastically to Jesus' call?

Today's Focus: Zacchaeus responded in repentance and faith to Jesus' call and was granted salvation.

Key Verses: *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham."* Luke 19:9

The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

From Galilee *(Matthew 19:1-2)*

Where did Jesus go after He first left Galilee and with whom?
Matthew 3:13, 4:1
Where did Jesus go after He last left Galilee and with whom?
Matthew 19:1-2

To Jerusalem *(John 11)*

Did Jesus continue to spend time with the crowds in Judea and Perea until His final trip to Jerusalem?
John 11:47-48, 53-54
Did the public understand why Jesus had withdrawn?
John 11:55-57
When Jesus finally left for Jerusalem, did He first calm the fears of His disciples?
Luke 18:31-34

Just Passing Through *(Luke 19:1)*

Who did Jesus meet on His way to Jerusalem?
Mark 10:46, 51-52
As a Jew, Mark refered to the Old Testament Jericho. How did the non-Jew Luke record the location?
Luke 18:35
Did it appear that Jesus intended to stay in New Testament Jericho?
Luke 19:1-2a
Had He actually planned to stay or pass through?
Luke 19:5
Why might Jesus and His disciples been in a hurry to pass through Jericho?
Luke 10:30

Are there other examples where Jesus looked like He would pass by where He was needed?
Mark 6:48
Luke 18:37-38, 40
Luke 24:13, 28
How could Jesus just pass by someone who needs Him?
John 10:25-27

Copyright © 2006 www.biblestoriesforadults.com. Use of this material is provided free of charge for use in personal or group Bible Study, no permission needed. The author reserves all rights for use in published material or in uses where fees are involved (contact kurt@biblestoriesforadults.com).

The Chief of Sinners and Tax Collectors *(Luke 19:2)*

Jericho controlled the strategic ford of the Jordan to the ancient Eastern trade routes
Key roads from Jericho
On main road for Jews traveling to and from Galilee (bypass around Samaria)
Strong customs and excise collection in this trade center
Who was in charge of the powerful tax office in Jericho?
Luke 19:2
As such a wealthy man, how respected would Zacchaeus have been?
Matthew 18:17
Matthew 5:44, 46

Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man *(Luke 19:3, 4)*

How well did Zacchaeus know Jesus?
Luke 19:3
What problems did Zacchaeus have to be able to see Jesus?
.
Luke 19:3
Leviticus 22:3
How earnestly did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
Luke 19:4
Sycamore-fig
Not a sycamore tree; transliteration of Greek *sukomoraia*
What promise had God made that fit Zacchaeus' situation?
Deuteronomy 4:29

The Savior's Call *(Luke 19:5)*

Was Zacchaeus able to see this Jesus like he so eagerly wanted?
Luke 19:5
Isn't it amazing that Jesus called Zacchaeus by name?
John 10:2-3, 14
Was Jesus' call to Zacchaeus just for him or also for us?
Revelation 3:20

What does Jesus' call of Zacchaeus tell us about His call to us?
Gracious
Personal
Urgent
Humbling
Affectionate
Assuring
Effective

Zac's Answer to the Call *(Luke 19:6)*

How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus' call?
Luke 19:6
Did Jesus expect this kind of welcome?
John 10:4

Zac's Response to the Call *(Luke 19:8)*

Did Jesus really leave the crowd to go to Zacchaeus' house?
Luke 19:7
Did Jesus' visit really change Zacchaeus' life?
Luke 19:8
What example of giving to the poor had been commanded on Mount Sinai?
Exodus 23:10-11
What was the command for making restitution for wrongs against another and voluntarily confesses?
Numbers 5:6-7
What class of crime did Zacchaeus accept by paying back four times?
Exodus 22:1

The Result of Zac's Response *(Luke 19:9)*

How did Jesus respond to Zacchaeus' comment?
Luke 19:9
Was Zacchaeus saved because he gave to the poor and made amends for his cheating?
Luke 18:18-22
Why was Zacchaeus saved?
Luke 7:48, 50
How did Zacchaeus' statement show that he had saving faith?
James 2:17-18

Did Jesus say that Zacchaeus was saved because he was a Jew, a descendant of Abraham?
Matthew 3:9 (John 8:31-41)
Then why did Jesus say Zacchaeus was saved because he was a son of Abraham?
Galatians 3:7, 29 (1-29)

The Walls of Jericho *(Luke 19:8-9)*

Known as *the oldest walled town in the world*
Where were the Israelites when their wanderings officially ended?
Joshua 5:10-12
Where did the Israelites first see God’s power in giving them the Promised Land?
Joshua 6:1-2, 20-21

What caused the walls of Jericho to tumble down?
Hebrews 11:30
What caused the walls of Zacchaeus' sinfulness and greed to tumble down?
Luke 19:8-9

Zacchaeus the Pure *(Luke 19:7)*

Zacchaeus is Greek form of Hebrew word for *pure*
How pure was Zacchaeus in the eyes of those who felt they knew about righteousness?
Luke 18:11
How did the people of Jericho feel about Jesus' outreach to Zacchaeus?
Luke 19:7
How does Zacchaeus' name become fitting when he is chosen by Jesus?
Ephesians 1:4-7

Come to Seek and Save the Lost *(Luke 19:10)*

Shouldn't Jesus have gone to stay with a church leader or scholar instead of a chief sinner?
Luke 19:10
Greek word for *lost* is same as used for *perish* or *destroy*.
John 3:16
John 10:10
What kinds of people does God count as lost sinners deserving to perish and be destroyed?
Psalm 14:2-3

Were there other examples where Jesus sought out sinners as great as Zacchaeus?
Luke 5:27-28
How did the church leaders and scholars respond to Jesus' fellowship with this sinner?
Luke 5:29-30
How did Jesus respond to their complaints?
Luke 5:31-32

How early in Jesus' life had His mission to save lost sinners been revealed?
Matthew 1:21
Where did Jesus go after today's lesson that showed His mission to save the perishing?
Luke 19:28

The Great Banquet *(Luke 14:16-24)*

What parable did Jesus tell to explain why He was called to seek the sinners?
Luke 14:16-17
How did the chosen reply to the invitation?
Luke 14:18-20
What did the host do to fill his banquet hall?
Luke 14:21-24

What other parables did Jesus speak to point out His calling to save the lost?
. Luke 15:3-7
. Luke 15:8-10
. Luke 15:11-32

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What gets in the way of my ability to see Jesus?
   (Luke 19:3; Matthew 7:3-5; 19:13-14; 23:13; Mark 10:21-23; John 12:37-46; Romans 8:35-39)
2. When have I sought or praised God without concern for what others might think of me?
   (Luke 19:4, 37; 1 Samuel 10:9-11; 19:23-24; 2 Samuel 6:14-16, 20-22; Psalm 95:1-2; 149:1-5)
3. Does Jesus know my name? Does He call to me?
   (Luke 19:5; Mark 2:17; John 10:1-16; Acts 2:39; Romans 1:5-6; 11:29; Revelation 3:20)
4. How have I responded to Jesus' call?
   (Luke 19:6, 8; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 2:41; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 6:12)
5. How certain am I that I have been saved?
   (Luke 19:9; Isaiah 28:16; John 20:31; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11; Hebrews 11:1; 2 Peter 1:10-11)