



These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

**IN JESUS' DAY, THE TABLE WAS MORE THAN A PLACE TO NOURISH THE BODY. IT WAS A PLACE TO NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND NOURISH THE SOUL. THROUGHOUT THE GOSPEL OF LUKE, WE SEE JESUS EATING WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, USING THOSE MOMENTS TO CONNECT WITH THE UP AND COMERS AND THE DOWN AND OUT, THE OUTCASTS AND THE IN-CROWD. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE AT THE TABLE WITH JESUS - EVEN A TRANSFORMED LIFE.**

**1** Here's a group kick-off question: if you could have anyone over to your house for dinner, who would it be? (Rules: they need to be currently living and not anyone you know personally).

**2 Read Luke 19:1-4.** Zacchaeus has a few obstacles to seeing Jesus - some are personal (his height) & some are social (the crowd). What barriers keep people from seeing Jesus in our world?

**3 Read Luke 19:5-7.** We see that **Jesus reaches out** to Zacchaeus. First question: What risks was Jesus taking in calling out to Zacchaeus? Follow up thought: Luke makes a point to contrast the joy of Zacchaeus with the grumbling of the crowd. Why do you think he wants us to notice this? What does it tell us about grace in action?

**4** When Jesus reaches out, **His grace reaches in.** All Zacchaeus wanted was a look at Jesus, but grace offers more than we expect. What does it mean to let Jesus into the innermost parts of your life? Why are we sometimes hesitant to give Jesus that kind of access?

**5 Read Luke 19:8.** It's only after an encounter with Jesus that Zacchaeus changes, because **new life flows out of what Jesus has done.** Do you think Christians let people belong before they expect them to behave? Why or why not? Follow up: How do we strike a balance between cheap grace that doesn't expect change and legalism that focuses on cleaning up your act to earn God's grace?

**6 Read Luke 19:9-10.** Sometimes in the Bible people reach out to God (see Psalm 145:18, for example). But in Luke 19, God is the one reaching out because **the power isn't in the process - it's in the person of Jesus.** What does this tell us about God's nature? What does it mean for you to follow Jesus' example of reaching out?

