

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

Welcome: *Icebreaker* – *What is the largest thing that you have ever climbed in your life?*

Study Tip: Luke chapters 9 – 19 document the journeys of Jesus as he travels southbound from Capernaum through Samaria, beyond the Jordan, and finally towards Jerusalem. At each point of this journey, Luke documents a wide array of Jesus' teachings (heart of a historian Lk. 1:1-4) as well as his intentional ministry towards the marginalized of society (heart of a physician Col. 4:14). Thus, in Luke 19 we are invited to read as if we are about to conclude our journey alongside of Jesus as he enters into Jericho, a city just outside of Jerusalem and a city with historical significance. Remember as the ancient Israelite spies *looked, saw* the powerful Canaanites, and *retreated in fear* (Num. 13-14)? It is no coincidence that right before the story of Zacchaeus, Jesus is outside the land of Jericho and *restores sight of a blind man* as he confesses that Jesus is the Son of David (Lk. 18:35-43)! Remember when Joshua marched around the *giant* walls of Jericho and witnessed the Lord miraculously tear down the *barriers* on behalf of the Israelites (Josh. 6)? We are now introduced to Zacchaeus who may have been small but had built up *giant* walls of hostility in his life and had similar *barriers* imposed on him by society. This week, we are invited to see another *giant* wonder, a decisive *spiritual* victory in which Jesus tears down the *walls* surrounding Zacchaeus almost instantaneously! ***What are these walls?*** Commentators suggest that Zacchaeus was a prominent and wealthy tax collector. Those following Jesus would have felt tension: how can Jesus be a friend of tax collectors who put up *walls* by their dishonest gain and treatment of others (Lk. 7:34) and yet Jesus' teachings suggest that it is impossible for the rich to enter into the kingdom of God (Lk. 18:25, 19:23)? Moreover, the Pharisees would have been disgusted by Jesus communing with Zacchaeus (Lk. 5:30) and doing good to sinners (Luke 6:27-38) because, "to accept the hospitality of a man whose wealth is ill gotten is to become a partner with him in his crimes." Thus, the Pharisees would have put up *societal barriers* (Lk. 18:39) and made Zacchaeus "little" by means of social ostracism. As you read this study guide, pay attention to how quickly all of these *walls* and *barriers* are torn down by Jesus (Lk. 9:57-62, 12:54-59) and how the flood of restitution graciously flowed through Zacchaeus (Lk. 18:22) through his fourfold restitution (Ex. 22:1-4; 2 Sam. 12:6)! Finally, pay attention to the spiritual conclusion that Zacchaeus is victoriously adopted into the family of Abraham (Lk. 13:16); as the Son of Man has come to tear down huge barriers seek and save the lost (Ezekiel 34; 18:35-43)

What's Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Danny led us into the fifth week of our series titled *Uncaged: Living in the Freedom of Grace*. Pastor Danny brought our attention to the story of Zacchaeus in *Luke 19:1-10* in order to talk about what it means to "make things right" with those whom we have hurt. As you read this passage, pay special attention to the tone of urgency and excitement that Jesus and Zacchaeus use. As you seek to apply these scriptures in your life, spend some time slowing down and asking Jesus to outline your next steps towards reconciliation!

"If we confess and repent of our sins God will completely restore us so that we can live in the freedom of forgiveness." – Pastor Danny Strange

GROUP MEETING (60 – 90 minutes)

Opening Time of Worship (10 – 15 minutes)

Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter into the presence of God for this meeting.

<p>Option 1: Worship Music Have someone share their favorite worship song. Find it online, play it, and sing along! Have them explain why the lyrics impacted them!</p>	<p>Option 2: Meditation As we come towards the end of the Series, spend some time yielding to the Holy Spirit and allow him to speak into your current circumstances.</p>	<p>Option 3: Alternative Biblical Story Philemon is a book that talks about total forgiveness. Paul advocates on behalf of Onesimus and his restoration to the church and Philemon not as an ex-servant, but as a brother in Christ!</p>
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Convicted to Make Things Right! (15 – 25 minutes)

Primary Text: Luke 19:1-10 – In his sermon, Pastor Danny references the story of Zacchaeus to point out that there is often a tension between being extremely excited to make things right and the practical challenge of re-engaging with the community that he has hurt. **Is there a situation in your life in which your sin may be the source of hurt, but at the same time you sense Jesus calling you to make things right and you are excited to act? What is one thing about Zacchaeus that Pastor Danny mentioned in the sermon (or that you see in the text) that you resonate with in terms of the practical challenges of re-engaging the community that you have hurt.** **Prayer Tip:** Pray for the Spirit to reveal certain areas of our lives where we feel convicted to make things right. Document all the challenges that get mentioned and be ready to pray against any roadblocks.

Excited to Act Generously! (15 – 25 minutes)

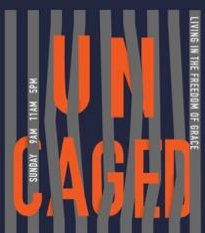
Primary Texts: Luke 19:7-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – The story of Zacchaeus ends with an act of sacrificial generosity that begins the process towards reconciliation. Pastor Danny mentions that even though we may be excited at the thought of reconciliation, we ought to first go to Jesus to discover what he would have us do! **What thoughts or potential actions come to your mind when you think about Zacchaeus and his generous response to the hurt that he has caused? What might Jesus be calling you to do about your situation?** **Prayer Tip:** Pray for the Spirit of power and boldness for each member in each situation.

Closing Time of Prayer (20 – 25 minutes)

In light of this week's discussion, here are some different ways that your group can pray!

- Pray for a growing passion to right the wrongs we have done to others.
- Pray for the Spirit of power and boldness to follow through on what Jesus is calling us to do.
- Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
- Pray for the entire group and how they might be able to contribute to future group meetings.
- Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!

Lear how to pray for our 3Crosses family by joining us at the [House of Prayer](#) (May 23rd at 6:30 PM)



Making it Right (May 9th, 2021)

Throughout the Week (60 – 90 minutes)

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to 3Crosses.org/coronavirus. If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at 3Crosses.org/neighborhood

-Suggested Resources:

[*Eats with Sinners*](#) (book) by Arron Chambers

[The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament](#) (book)

-Community Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org