

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of June 12-18, 2022

## “JESUS, OUR FRIEND”

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### GETTING STARTED

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If someone invited themselves to your home, would you be more inclined to say “yes” or to say “no”? Why?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. When was the first time you heard the popular story of Zacchaeus? What particular aspect of the story struck you? Who do you think is seeking whom in this story? (Is Jesus seeking Zacchaeus? Is Zacchaeus seeking Jesus?)
2. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus would be there. How do you feel about the fact that God sees you? Is this thought comforting? Reassuring? Scary? Familiar? New? Why?
3. Zacchaeus hiding himself on a sycamore-fig tree reminds us that whenever we are in sin, there is this tendency for us to hide and run away from God. How true is this in your life? Can you share a time when you hid from Jesus and what was the outcome?
4. What does Jesus say about his purpose in coming to the world (v.10)? How is this an expression of God’s own heart and love for mankind (cf Luke 5:31-32; 15:20)? What does this mean to us?
5. “It’s not just the *what* but also the *how* that matters.” What are your thoughts about “cancel culture”? How do you think a Christian should respond when cancelled? How should a Christian go about defending truth?
6. Read Luke 19:6-7. What contrast do you see between Zacchaeus and the crowd? Are there ways that Zacchaeus and the crowd is similar and/or different from you?

7. Things changed for Zacchaeus at the dinner table. That’s what happens when God moves in. How did your encounter with Jesus change you? What changes is he still working in your life today?

### 8. NEXT STEPS

*It is easier to give grace when we remember how much we need grace.*

- I am a sinner in need of God’s grace. I will come before Jesus with an open heart and cling to His promise of forgiveness
- I will remember that Jesus looks beyond my sins and loves me despite my imperfections.
- I will constantly speak and act in humility and not judge others.
- I will share God’s love and reach out to my friends and loved ones.

*Don’t forget to:*

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

### CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a humble heart that seeks God’s presence and forgiveness.
- Pray for a heart like Jesus who came to seek and save the lost.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through tough times.

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

June 13	John 15:5-15
June 14	Luke 12:22-31
June 15	Luke 19:1-10
June 16	Matthew 6:33
June 17	Luke 18:10-14
June 18	Genesis 16:1-13
June 19	Philippians 2:1-11