

World Mission Home Group – 11th November 2020

Luke 19:1-10 – A RICH MAN MADE POOR?

Aims for this study: Once a year Home Groups devote a session to mission, thinking through a relevant passage, considering its implications for the life and service of their own mission partner/organisation, and having an extended time of prayer for them and their particular situation.

Why does each home group have a mission link?

- **It's good for us and our growth!** Healthy groups help every member to grow in Christ and live gospel centred lives. Getting to know and praying faithfully for mission partners should help by keeping us outward looking and not just focussing on our own needs. It should also encourage us to view our own calling as 'missionaries' and spur us on to play our part in getting the good news about Jesus to everyone in the whole world.
- **It's good for them and their work!** Maintaining meaningful relationships with us as a church is not easy - they're not able to join us in person very often and there are always new people joining the church who they will never have met. Relationships with specific Home Groups make our links meaningful. The impact of our prayers for them is impossible to measure, but is undoubtedly the main means by which God enables them to persevere in ministry and to bear fruit.

What role can the home group play in supporting mission partners?

The key way is by keeping in contact and praying regularly for them. When they visit, there may also be an opportunity to meet up with them. Some group members may even be able to visit them on behalf of the group!

PART ONE - BIBLE STUDY [45 mins]

THE BIG IDEA - Jesus declared that the reason he came was “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) - The story of Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus takes us right to the heart of the difference his mission makes.

Discussion Questions

1. The doorbell rings, and a stranger stands at the door. What kinds of questions immediately spring to mind? What would you want to ask (assuming you felt safe to do that)?
2. Jesus is on a journey from the north of the country to the south. **Read Luke 18:1-34.** What was on his mind as he headed towards Jerusalem?

Read Luke 19:1-10

3. What kind of person was Zacchaeus? What are we told about him in verses 1-4?
4. In 19:5-7 Jesus’ words to Zacchaeus bring two very different reactions - one from Zacchaeus and one from the crowd. How would you describe each of these reactions to Jesus? What would be the probable reason for each?
5. We're not told much about the conversation but Jesus and Zacchaeus had in Zacchaeus’ home. But we are told about Zacchaeus’ response. How would you sum it up?
 - What might Jesus have said to provoke this response, do you think?
 - Imagine you are Zacchaeus’ financial advisor: how might you describe his decision?!
 - Why did Zacchaeus choose not to follow any “sensible” advice, do you think? (What is implied by the manner in which Zacchaeus address is Jesus?)

6. Jesus' reaction to Zacchaeus' response is extremely positive. what precisely does Jesus say has happened?
 - With whom does Jesus now associate this change to tax collector? Why is that significant, do you think?
7. Looking back over this incident, would you say that this is the story of a rich man made poor? Or a poor man made rich? What difference does this distinction make?
8. Verse 10 Is Jesus' great declaration of the purpose for which he came into the world. What is it? Why do you think Jesus said this at that point?
 - What would it take for Jesus to carry out his mission?
9. In what sense was Zacchaeus lost?
 - What would it take to ... see people as Jesus saw Zacchaeus?
 - What would it take to ... treat people as Jesus treated Zacchaeus?
10. What do you think Jesus' words in Luke 19:9-10 mean for how we assess poverty and wealth? Are there any implications for our understanding of the scope of mission?
11. If we've been "found" by Jesus, what would it look like to respond with the same heart as Zacchaeus?

Pray for...

- all the "Zacchaeus's" You know among your family, friends, neighbours or work colleagues.
- Your own response to Jesus, in repentance and faith.
- A growing understanding within your Church of Jesus and his mission: that you may share his passion for the lost and, like him, be willing to search them out, spend time with them rather than write them off, and speak about the one who came to save them.

[This study is from "Mission: Your Part in God's Plan for the Nations" by Alan Purser]

PART TWO – PRAYING FOR OUR HOME GROUP MISSION PARTNER [15 mins]

Please allow time for your group to pray for your mission partner and remind the group to mould their prayers around what we have learned from the Bible study.

- 1. Who is your Home Group Mission Partner?**
- 2. Where are they working? What are they doing?**
- 3. Are there any particular stresses in their present situation?**
- 4. How can we pray for them?**

