

## Questions to promote discussion on Luke 19: 1-10.

I would begin by reading Luke 18: 18-19:10. The story of Zacchaeus is a hinge in the book of Luke. It ends Luke's account of Jesus' public ministry and begins his account of Jesus' last week ending in the crucifixion and resurrection.

How would you describe the rich ruler's approach to Jesus? How does he think about himself in relation to God? Why does he ask, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Why did the rich ruler go away sad?

Why were the people amazed that Jesus said it was impossible for rich people to go to heaven? What does their question "Who then can be saved?" tell us about how they thought people got into heaven? What tone of voice do you think they are using? What's their attitude towards Jesus?

Why is Jesus' response in v. 27 incredibly good news for every kind of sinner, not just rich ones?

In what ways are the rich ruler and Zacchaeus similar?

In what ways are they different?

Out of the thousands of people surrounding Jesus and standing along the road, why did Jesus stop and talk with Zacchaeus?

What does the word "must" in v. 5 tell us?

Why are the people grumbling against Jesus in v. 6? (As an interesting note, the word for grumbling used here is the one used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to describe all the times Israel grumbled against the Lord and against Moses. Why did Luke pick this word?) What does this reveal about how they think people get into heaven?

What does Zacchaeus' response tell us about his heart? Why is he so enthusiastically volunteering to be poor? What does this tell us about what faith and repentance are?

According to Jesus in vv. 9-10 why has salvation come to the house of Zacchaeus? What is the cause of his salvation? Ultimately why did he run ahead, climb the tree, joyfully welcome Jesus into his home, give half his possessions to the poor and volunteer to make it right with all those he had cheated?

Did Jesus treat the rich ruler fairly? Was it wrong for Jesus to not effectively save the rich ruler? Did Jesus treat Zacchaeus fairly? Did he give him what he deserved?

According to Ephesians 1: 4-6, why does God choose to save some sinners?

What would a church full of Zacchaeus' look like?

