



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of November 18, 2024

1. Name some of the most famous “mobster” movies or “mafia-themed” television shows. How many can you think of from the past or present? Why do you think Americans are so captivated and interested in these crime family dramas?
2. Have someone in your group read Luke 19:1-10. Since the Roman Empire had seized control of Palestine/Israel, Jewish people were required to pay taxes to Caesar through official tax-collectors called “publicans.” How do you think the people viewed Zacchaeus... and why?
3. Can you identify another well-known tax-collector in Scripture? (see Luke 5:27-31) How did this tax collector respond to Jesus? Is it possible that this tax collector knew Zacchaeus? Explain your answer based on Luke 19:2.
4. What two things did Zacchaeus do in verse 4 that was totally unexpected for a man of his wealth, status, and position in the community?
5. When Jesus stopped walking and began talking with Zacchaeus in the tree — was this meeting accidental or planned? Explain your answer based on Jesus’ words in verse 5.
6. Why did the crowd criticize Jesus for eating a meal with Zacchaeus? Can you name someone that if you shared a coffee or meal with them — would raise eyebrows among your family members, friends, or local church?
7. When Zacchaeus declared his intention to make a four-fold restitution to those he had cheated, and give 50% of his possessions to the poor and needy— was he trying to “purchase” or “earn” his salvation? Would you say this action by Zacchaeus was the “root” or the “fruit” of his salvation? Read Ephesians 2:8-10 as part of your discussion.
8. How does Luke 19:10 provide a great summary statement of Jesus’ mission?
9. Pastor Ryan stated that “*Personal friendships can lead people to powerful forgiveness.*” What can you learn from Jesus about making connections with people from every walk of life? What encouraging promise does Jesus make in John 10:16?

The good news of Jesus is for all people, especially the outsiders and outcasts.