

STUDY 2: ACTING ON OUR CURIOSITY. Luke 19.1-10.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Debrief Together:

1. Walt Disney once said, "*We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths.*" How does Zacchaeus express his curiosity about Jesus? How does it open new doors in his faith journey?
2. Describe Jesus' response to Zacchaeus' expression of curiosity and faith?
3. Zacchaeus' curiosity grows into an openness to change. How does Jesus inspire Zacchaeus to take the next step from curiosity to openness to change?
4. How does your curiosity about God represent the presence of faith in you?
5. Based on this passage, how does God feel about your curiosity?

Going Deeper:

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - Jesus

- God is actively searching out for everyone who is not in relationship with Him. What signs do you see in your life that God is searching for you?

SUMMARY: Tax Collectors were viewed with disdain and distrust by the Jewish people. Most often Jews themselves, tax collectors profited by over-charging their countrymen and pocketing the difference. Zacchaeus had no doubt grown wealthy from this kind of unjust gain. For this reason the crowd is disgruntled that Jesus has chosen to associate with Zacchaeus. But Jesus sees something in Zacchaeus that others do not.