



Invitations to Dinner with Jesus

video course by Bishop Joe



Session Five: Invitation to not come to tea

Bible Study Leaders Guide

Welcome and Prayer

5 min

Welcome everyone and invite a moment of stillness.

Opening Prayer (or adapt as needed):

Lord Jesus, as we gather together to reflect on your word, help us to listen with open hearts and humble minds. Teach us to seek you with courage, to welcome your presence with joy, and to be transformed by your mercy and love. Amen

Watch the Video

11 min

Play Bishop Joe's 11-minute video (or read aloud the transcript if video isn't available).

Initial Reflections

5 min

- What stood out to you most in the story of Zacchaeus?

Scripture Reading

5 min

Read Luke 14:15-23 aloud.

Discussion Questions

25 min

- Why do you think Zacchaeus was so eager to see Jesus?
- Jesus doesn't wait for an invitation — he invites himself. What does that tell us about how God works in people's lives? Have you ever felt like Jesus "showed up" uninvited in your life?
- Why do you think the crowd reacts in the way they do?
- Zacchaeus makes a radical commitment to restitution. What does this teach us about true repentance?
- How do you respond when someone who has hurt others seeks forgiveness and change?
- What might it look like for you to "climb a tree" to see Jesus more clearly in your life today?
- Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house." What does salvation mean to you personally?

Prayer Response

5-15 min

Take some time to respond in prayer. Below are a few suggestions of ways you could invite your group to respond in prayer.

Daily Prayer

Pray together the appropriate daily office which can be found at <https://daily.commonworship.com> or on the Fruitful App.

“Climbing the Tree” Reflection

Spend some time in quiet reflection, inviting people to identify what their own ‘sycamore tree’ might be and what they could do to draw closer to Jesus.

- Provide paper and pens for people to write or sketch their thoughts
- If people feel comfortable, invite people to share what they wrote
- Close with a short prayer

Pray for 5

Spend some time identifying and then praying for five people to respond to Jesus’ invitation to come to know the amazing, life-transforming joy of knowing Him.

Check out [Thy Kingdom Come](#) for more information. Creative ideas could be:

- Using a band, tie 5 knots, each one representing one of your 5.
- Write their names down on a piece of paper and doodle pray for them.

Coins of confession

- Give each person a chocolate coin.
- Invite them to hold it and reflect silently, inviting the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anything they need to confess or make right.
- After a few minutes, they can place the coin in a central bowl or basket as a symbolic offering of repentance.
- Read 1 Peter 1:9 aloud.
- Close with a prayer asking God to receive these confessions and bring healing and transformation.
- Eat the coins!