

Startled by Grace Part 4: “Stories of Grace - Manuel Bento” (Description & Life Group Questions)

Sermon description:

As we continue in our series “Startled by Grace” we will have several members of our church family share their personal stories of grace. This week our friend Manuel Bento shared about God’s love and grace in his personal life in Mozambique, and through the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus. We hope you are encouraged by this story of God’s Grace!

Key verses: Luke 19:1-10

Read the key verses and discuss the following questions:

1. Who was able to hear Manuel’s testimony at church yesterday? What stood out to you from Manuel’s story? Why is it important to hear each other’s stories?
2. Manuel talked about the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus too. He mentioned that Jesus took time to stop and see the one person along his way who was in need. Why is that important, and how can we as busy people practice this in our daily lives? Can you think of a time when someone did this for you? Or a time when you stopped to see “the one” in front of you?
3. We also learned about how Jesus was mostly silent in this story, and was willing to just be present with Zacchaeus, and yet he had a huge impact Zacchaeus’ life. How can we practice this in our own lives when loving on people around us?
4. Manuel talked about feeling out of place at times in Knoxville after spending most of his life and ministry in Mozambique. He then talked about the importance of recognizing you have a gift and calling to use for Jesus right where you are. Can you relate to feeling out of place? Do you recognize some gifts or abilities in your life that God may be calling you to use where you are right now?
5. In light of hearing Manuel’s story & recognizing the importance of hearing each other’s testimonies, would anyone like to take 5 minutes and share some of their story tonight?