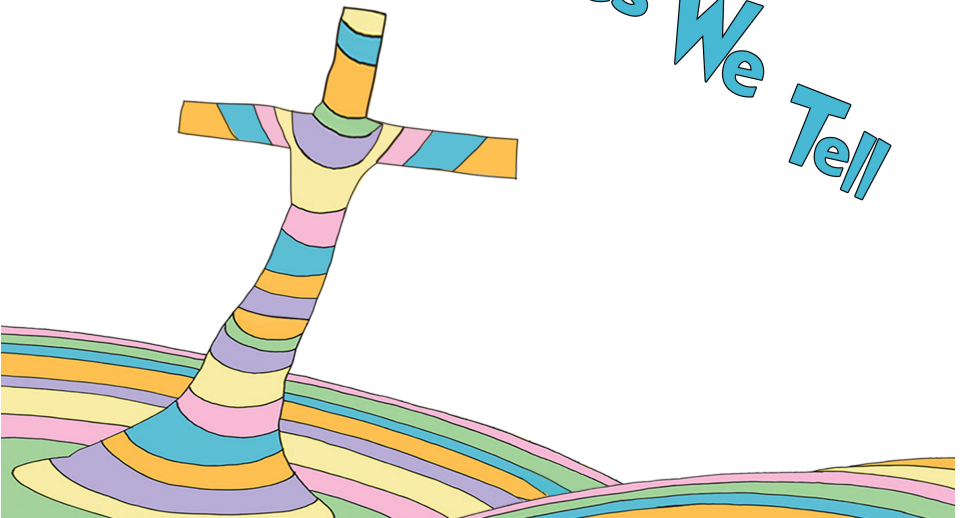


Community Group Discussion 06.28 - 07.26

Oh, The Stories We Tell



Oh, The Stories We Tell

This series is uniquely designed for kids, students, and adults. Below you will see discussion questions for all Community Groups, as well as studies and activities for families to use with their students or kids.

Group Discussion

Luke 19:1-10

1. On a scale of 1-5, how aware are you of the people around you? (1 - Not at all, 5 - Very aware). What distracts you the most? How can you have eyes to notice people like Jesus does?
2. Tax collectors were some of the most despised people in Jewish culture. Who would be the “tax collectors” today? How can we love them like Jesus loved Zacchaeus?
3. Do you ever feel more or less loved by God because of your behavior?
4. What does it mean to love people where they are? How can you do that this week? Who will you do that for?
5. Jesus often ate with sinners just like he ate with Zacchaeus. Why is that so significant? Who can you eat with, grab coffee with, or just sit with this week?

Students: Middle & High School

Icebreaker

Who knows the Zacchaeus song? Who can sing it?

Activity (Optional)

I Spy

Take turns spotting something in the room and giving it a description. Give everyone in the room a chance to guess what it is. (Ex: I spy something gray and soft.)

Questions

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. Do you have something in your life that you are trying to “clean up” before coming to Jesus?
2. Who is someone in your life that you can love and welcome right where they are? What is one way you can do that this week?

Challenge:

Pray to Jesus just as you are. Care for someone else just as they are.

Kids: Pre-School & Elementary

Game:

Play musical chairs

Place chairs (or carpet squares, pieces of paper, or whatever you are using to mark “spots”) in a circle, using one less than the number of players. Play music and have the children walk around the circle, when the music stops, they must sit down on a spot as fast as they can. The player left without a place to sit is “out.” Remove one more “spot” and play again. Continue playing until only one player remains. Possible questions for discussion after the game include: What did it feel like to be the last person playing? What did it feel like to be “out”? What does it mean to leave someone out? Have you ever not included someone on purpose? Have you ever been the one excluded? How does Jesus want us to treat one another? Who was Jesus especially good at including?

Object Lesson:

Split the children up into several small groups. Allow them to play the game *Jenga* or to take turns stacking blocks to make a tower. Either circulate around or have a discussion time following the activity and talk with the children about breaking and fixing things. One rule I like to live by is, “You break it. You fix it.” This applies to material things, but also to relationships and feelings. Each one of us continually breaks our relationship with Jesus. We sin and we become far away from him, but when we ask for his forgiveness and unite with him at his Communion table, he fixes us and makes us whole again.

Review Questions:

1. Who was the short man who climbed a tree to get a better look at Jesus? (*Zacchaeus*)
2. What was Zacchaeus' job? (*Tax Collector*)
3. What did Zacchaeus do to show Jesus that he was sorry for the bad things he had done? (*Gave half of his possessions to the poor and paid back the people four times what he had cheated them as a tax collector*).

NEXT SUNDAY at REDEMPTION

