

Living That Blessed Life

WEEK 3 – STOP AND GO SPIRITUALITY

BIG IDEA:

Throughout the Gospels we read and see that Jesus practiced and perfected stop and go spirituality. Jesus was generous with His time, thoughtful words, and transformative power. Our working definition for generosity is: “Showing a readiness to give something more of that is strictly necessary or expected.” This week, we’re looking at what it means to be a blessing to others as we look for opportunities to stop.

KEY VERSE:

Luke 19:1-10, “Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 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.” 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.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Zacchaeus struggled with three big questions: Who am I? Do I fit in? and What’s my mission? Which of these three questions has been your greatest struggle?
2. Do you sense the Lord prompting you to change in some area of your life? Can you elaborate and share with the group?

Key Point #1: Jesus stopped and something spectacular was about to happen. His presence is powerful.

Key Point #2: Jesus saw Zacchaeus and the way He saw him changed everything. His perspective is perfect.

3. How do you think God sees you right now? What do you think His perspective is on your circumstances? How does that differ from your own?

Key Point #3: Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus and called him by name. His pursuit is personal.

4. Are you generous with connection? Are you intentional with your eye contact, conversation, and time? How can you improve in this area?

Key Point #4: Jesus showed Zacchaeus compassion and came to his house. His plan is practical.

Key Point #5: Jesus saved him in a moment and his eternity was secure. His priority is permanent.

5. What would have happened if Jesus hadn’t stopped?
6. What does it look like for you to stop? What does it look like for you to be generous with your time, connection, resources, words?

MOVING FORWARD:

It’s easier to be generous when we realize that when we are full of God, generosity is not only possible, it’s inevitable. When we stop for one, it always impacts more than one. Discuss in your group how can you stop and be generous this week? Who will you reach out to and thank for the impact they’ve made in your life?