

Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

Notes on Lesson Three: His Mission

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Luke 18: 31-19:10

Central Message

The blind man responded to Jesus by following him. Zacchaeus responded by welcoming him gladly and correcting something that he knew was wrong. These men were lost, and Jesus welcomed them. This is Jesus' mission. Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die for our sins. This is a part of the same mission. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19:10

Life Application

If Jesus forgave you for all the wrong things you have done, how would you respond to him? If he told you to follow him into a dangerous situation, how would you respond? Our response is based on our trust in Jesus.

Community-Building Activity and Introduction¹

Welcome

Preparation: Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

Instructions: Ask each pair to choose one of these sets of questions to discuss.

1. When you walk into a new place, what makes you feel comfortable and welcome? (Is it something you see in the room? Is it the way people talk with you?)
2. What do you do to welcome new people?

Teaching Notes: The opening paragraph in the workbook introduces the idea of a mission statement. It asks big questions, "What is your purpose in life?" "What *do you think* is the purpose of all humans?" The group members do not need to answer the questions at this point; the purpose of the questions is to get them thinking. Still, you could ask if anyone has any ideas.

¹ The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

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Lesson Notes

Part One: Private Words Luke 18: 31-34

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

- 1.2. Luke 18: 32-33, “He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. 18:33 On the third day he will rise again. Read the footnotes together, and make sure they understand these words.
- 3.4. “Son of Man”
5. The Gentiles, the Romans, will do these things. Note that the next questions discuss who handed him over to the Gentiles.
6. The text does not give the answer, but the group members know that the Jewish leaders have been arguing with Jesus. They may guess that Jesus is going to be handed over to the Romans by the Jewish leaders.
7. The text does not say why Jesus is telling them. They don't understand any of it. However, Jesus is preparing them so that when the time comes, they will remember what he has said. It is going to look like Jesus has no power, no control, yet Jesus is giving his life willingly. Also, make sure they notice that Jesus tells them that after three days, he will rise again. They cannot imagine what he means, but they will find out.
8. According to the text, “the meaning was hidden from them.” “They did not know what he was talking about.” Some of the confusion is from God, and some from their own ideas of what is possible. (Ask the group members if they have ever heard something that seemed absolutely impossible. For many, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were like that.) Why is Jesus telling them, and why would God want to keep them from seeing the complete picture about the future?

LINK Ask questions to make sure they understand this section.

Lesson Notes

Part Two: The Lost Sons, Luke 18: 35 -19:10

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

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- 1.2. Note the structure of this exercise for pairs. First they will work together, then each person will work alone, then they will work together again in pairs. Before you begin working in pairs, go over the instructions as a group. Make sure they see that they are working on different paragraphs, and that their information is to come from only the first three lines of their paragraph. This is a pre-reading activity.
3. The chart can be filled out by pairs or as a larger group. There is not need to report their findings to the larger group, because the other discussion questions will use this information.

Blind Man	Zacchaeus
What did they call Jesus? Jesus, Son of David	Lord
What did they want <i>at first</i> ? He was blind. He wanted to be able to see.	He wanted to see Jesus.
What did they do to get what they wanted? He shouted out to Jesus, and did not stop.	He climbed a tree so he could see Jesus pass by.
What did Jesus do for them? He gave him his sight	Jesus knew his name. He called out to him and said he wanted to stay in Zacchaeus' house. This was a great honor that he did not deserve.
How did they respond to Jesus? He praised God and followed Jesus.	He welcomed Jesus into his home. He gave away his money to the poor, and repaid people he had cheated.

4. 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
5. How does Jesus come to seek and to save what is lost? In the first part of the lesson, we read that Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die. It is not clear how this fits in yet, but we know that it was the role of the Messiah. "He was put to death for the sins of our people...even though he had never committed a crime or ever told a lie." Isaiah 53:9 (from earlier in the lesson.)
6. How were they lost? They were both lost to "society," and at least the tax collector was also a sinner. They had very low social status and at least the tax collector was hated by the people. The blind man was a poor beggar. Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector who cheated the people. They were also lost because

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they could not see Jesus without some help. (Jesus is the one in both cases who offers this help. He orders that the blind man be brought to him, and he calls up to Zacchaeus that he wants to stay at his house.)

7. The blind man shows trust when he shouts out to Jesus and does not give up. At least, he trusts that Jesus can heal him, even though he may not know if he is willing to do it. After he is healed, he follows Jesus. Since he cannot see, he is going to have to trust Jesus and the disciples to help him.

LIVE Discuss one of these questions

1. Help them to think of a situation where they had to work to build trust with someone. They may think of something they said in the opening question about welcoming people.
2. There are lots of ways that people are lost. They do not need the "correct" answer. When thinking about Jesus, they can think about the two lessons on lost people.

Be sure to read the "Consider This" section. These are questions to think about:

The blind man responded to Jesus by following him. Zacchaeus responded by welcoming him gladly and correcting something that he knew was wrong. If Jesus forgave you for all the wrong things you had done, how would you respond to him? If he told you to follow him into a dangerous situation, how would you respond? Our response is based on our trust in Jesus.

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His Mission

In the last lesson, Jesus told stories to help us understand God's love. God loves us the way a father loves his child. He is waiting to welcome us home.

In this lesson, there are more lost people. This time they are real people, not stories. Watch how Jesus welcomes each one, and how they respond to him.

Community Time



Welcome

1. When you walk into a new place, what makes you feel comfortable and welcome?

(Is it something you see in the room? Is it the way people talk with you?)

2. What do you do to welcome new people?

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Jesus' Mission Statement

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Luke 19:10