



Transformation Through Encounter: The Story of Zacchaeus



Explore Zacchaeus' journey of repentance and restoration in Luke 19:1–10 through a transformative 7-day Bible study plan.

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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study focusing on the transformative story of Zacchaeus the tax collector, as told in Luke 19:1–10. This passage is a profound example of how an encounter with Jesus can lead to genuine repentance and life-changing restitution. Zacchaeus, once a despised tax collector, experienced a radical transformation that challenges us to consider our own hearts and the changes Jesus desires to bring about in us.

Tax collectors in Jesus' day were often viewed as traitors and sinners because they collected taxes for the Roman oppressors and were notorious for dishonesty. Zacchaeus, being a chief tax collector, was likely wealthy but shunned and looked down upon by his community. His story begins with curiosity and yearning—he climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus because he was short in stature and eager to catch a glimpse of the Savior.

What follows is a divine encounter that turns Zacchaeus' life upside down. Jesus calls him by name and announces His intention to stay at Zacchaeus' house, signaling acceptance and grace. This moment leads Zacchaeus to an immediate and extraordinary repentance: he promises to give half of his possessions to the poor and to repay four times what he had wrongfully taken. His actions demonstrate that true repentance involves not only remorse but also tangible acts of restitution.

The passage reminds us that Jesus came to seek and save the lost, offering new life and purpose to anyone willing to receive it. Through Zacchaeus, we



see that transformation is possible no matter our past mistakes or social standing. This study will guide you through reflection on repentance, grace, restoration, and the heart of God's mission to redeem sinners.

Let us journey together through these seven days, allowing the Spirit to reveal deeper truths as we meditate on Zacchaeus' story and its implications for our lives today.





Day 1: 👁️ Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up



Day 1: 👁 Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up

Your Verse

Luke 19:1-4 NIV - "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through...he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 27:8 NIV - "My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, Lord, I will seek."*
- *Matthew 7:7 NIV - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*



Day 1: 👁 Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up

Devotional: The Courage to Seek Jesus Above All Else

The story of Zacchaeus begins with a desire—a deep yearning to see Jesus. Despite being disdained as a tax collector, Zacchaeus took the initiative to seek out Jesus, physically climbing a tree to gain a better vantage point. This act symbolizes a heart willing to make an effort to encounter the Savior. What does it mean to seek Jesus today in our busy, distracted lives? Zacchaeus' story encourages us to prioritize Jesus above all, even when obstacles or our own limitations may make that challenging.

Seeking Jesus is the first step in a transformative journey. It requires intentionality, humility, and persistence. Zacchaeus was curious but also brave enough to rise above his reputation and the judgment of others. His example invites us to reflect on whether we are sincerely seeking Jesus with all our hearts or just casually expecting Him to come to us.

As you start this study, ask yourself: Are you actively pursuing God's presence, or are you content with a distant relationship? Jesus honors those who seek Him, and the invitation is open for each of us to draw near.



Day 1: 👁 Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up

Reflect and Apply

1. What barriers in your life prevent you from seeking Jesus wholeheartedly?

2. How does Zacchaeus' determination challenge your current attitude toward faith?

3. In what ways can you practically 'climb the tree' to get a better view of Jesus today?



Day 1: 👁 Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you actively sought Jesus despite challenges.

2. Describe what it means for you personally to seek Jesus 'above all.'

3. List three practical steps you can take this week to deepen your pursuit of Christ.



Day 1: 👁️ Seeking Jesus: Zacchaeus Looks Up

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the example of Zacchaeus, who sought You earnestly despite obstacles. Help me to cultivate a heart that actively pursues Your presence each day. Teach me to overcome distractions and barriers that keep me distant from You. May I, like Zacchaeus, be willing to step out of my comfort zone to meet You and experience Your transforming love. *Draw me nearer, Jesus.* Amen. 🙏🌿🌟





Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus



Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus

Your Verse

Luke 19:5 NIV – "Jesus looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Revelation 3:20 NIV – "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in."*
- *Romans 5:8 NIV – "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*



Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus

Devotional: Grace Calls Us Home Despite Our Past

Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus is astonishing—despite Zacchaeus' reputation as a sinner, Jesus calls him personally and chooses to stay at his house. This moment reveals the heart of Jesus, who seeks connection and offers grace even to those whom society rejects. Imagine how Zacchaeus must have felt: surprised, honored, and perhaps a little vulnerable. Jesus reaches out before Zacchaeus can clean up his life or prove his worth.

God's grace often comes as an unexpected invitation. Instead of condemnation, Jesus offers acceptance and love. This challenges our assumptions about worthiness and reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy.

Consider the power of Jesus knowing your name and actively inviting Himself into your life. This personal invitation is the beginning of transformation and restoration. How do we respond when Jesus knocks or calls us? Will we open the door, even when we feel unworthy or ashamed?



Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus

Reflect and Apply

1. How does Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus affect your understanding of God's grace?

2. Are you willing to open the door of your life to Jesus, even with your flaws?

3. What feelings arise when you think about Jesus calling you personally by name?



Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus

Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on a time when you felt unworthy but received God's grace.

2. Write about how Jesus inviting Himself in changes your perspective on forgiveness.

3. List ways you can be more receptive to Jesus' invitations in your daily life.



Day 2: 🏠 An Unexpected Invitation: Jesus Calls Zacchaeus

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for calling me by name and inviting Yourself into my life. Help me to open my heart and home without hesitation or fear. Teach me to accept Your grace freely, knowing You came for sinners like me. May Your presence bring healing, hope, and transformation as I respond to Your loving call. *I am grateful for Your unending love.* Amen. 🙏❤️🌿





Day 3: 💡 Repentance in Action: Zacchaeus' Response



Day 3: 💡 Repentance in Action: Zacchaeus' Response

Your Verse

Luke 19:8 NIV – "But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor...'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 3:19 NIV – "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."*
- *2 Corinthians 7:10 NIV – "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret."*



Devotional: Repentance That Leads to Restoration

True repentance is more than feeling sorry—it is a decisive turning point that leads to concrete change. Zacchaeus exemplifies this by publicly declaring his intention to give away half his wealth to the poor and repay fourfold those he had cheated. His repentance is visible and practical, demonstrating integrity and a desire to make things right.

Repentance demands honesty and courage. Zacchaeus does not hide his past but confronts it with transparency, surrendering to God's leading. His restitution underscores that repentance involves restitution—repairing the damage done where possible.

Reflect on your own life. Are there areas where repentance is needed, and restoration possible? Repentance opens the door to freedom and renewed relationship with God and others. Zacchaeus' story invites us to embrace repentance not as a burden but as a gateway to transformation.



Reflect and Apply

1. What does genuine repentance look like in your life?

2. Are there relationships or situations that need your confession and restitution?

3. How does Zacchaeus' example inspire deeper honesty and change?



Day 3: 💡 Repentance in Action: Zacchaeus' Response

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about where God might be calling you to repent today.

2. Describe what restoration means for you personally or in your community.

3. List practical steps you can take to demonstrate repentance tangibly.



Day 3: 💡 Repentance in Action: Zacchaeus' Response

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the gift of repentance and the power to change. Give me a humble and honest heart to confess my wrongs and seek restoration. Help me to follow Zacchaeus' example and make amends where needed. May Your Spirit empower me to walk the path of transformation daily. *Cleanse me and renew my heart, Lord. Amen.* 🌱 🙏 ❤️





Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost



Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost

Your Verse

Luke 19:10 NIV - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 10:11 NIV - "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."*
- *Ezekiel 34:11 NIV - "I myself will search for my sheep and look after them."*



Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost

Devotional: Jesus Pursues Us With Relentless Love

Luke 19:10 reveals the heart of Jesus' mission: to seek and save the lost. Zacchaeus' story is a vivid illustration of this divine purpose at work. Jesus does not wait for Zacchaeus to change first; He goes after him, offering salvation and hope right where he is.

This mission reflects God's relentless love and pursuit of every individual, regardless of past failures or social stigma. It is a lasting reminder that none are beyond God's reach. Jesus identifies with the lost as a shepherd passionately seeking His sheep, calling them back to safety and life.

How does this mission of Jesus inspire your own heart toward those who are hurting, lost, or estranged? Reflect on ways you can join Him in this mission by sharing love, truth, and grace.



Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you personally experience Jesus' seeking love?

2. In what ways can you be a part of Jesus' mission to save the lost?

3. Who in your life needs to hear the message of grace and salvation?



Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you felt deeply sought after by God.

2. List people you can pray for or reach out to who are lost or hurting.

3. Reflect on how you can mirror Jesus' compassion in your daily life.



Day 4: ✨ Jesus' Mission: To Seek and Save the Lost

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for seeking me when I was lost. Help me to understand Your heart and join Your mission of love. Give me compassion, courage, and wisdom to reach out to those who need You. Let my life be a reflection of Your saving grace and relentless pursuit. *Guide my steps in sharing Your hope.*

Amen. 🙏❤️✨





Day 5: ❤️ Transformation Begins with Encounter



Day 5: ❤ Transformation Begins with Encounter

Your Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Galatians 2:20 NIV – "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."*
- *Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV – "You were taught...to put off your old self...and to put on the new self."*



Day 5: ❤️ Transformation Begins with Encounter

Devotional: New Life Emerges From Meeting Jesus

Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus marks the beginning of his transformation—a new creation in Christ. The old life bound by sin, greed, and isolation gives way to a life characterized by generosity, honesty, and restored relationships.

Transformation is not merely external change but an inner renewal brought about by God's Spirit. When we meet Jesus, our identity shifts; we become new people with new desires, values, and purposes. This change impacts everything: our thoughts, actions, and interactions with others.

Consider what it means for you to be a new creation. Are there old habits or mindsets to lay down so the new self can emerge? Zacchaeus' story shows that lasting change flows from an intimate, personal encounter with Jesus, producing fruits of repentance and love.



Day 5: ❤️ Transformation Begins with Encounter

Reflect and Apply

1. What old patterns do you need to leave behind to embrace new life in Christ?

2. How has your encounter with Jesus begun to transform you internally?

3. What steps can you take to live as a new creation daily?



Day 5: ❤️ Transformation Begins with Encounter

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe how you have changed since meeting Jesus.

2. List habits or attitudes you want to put off and new ones you want to adopt.

3. Reflect on how your identity in Christ influences your daily choices.



Day 5: ❤️ Transformation Begins with Encounter

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for making me a new creation in Christ. Help me to daily put off the old self and embrace the life You offer. Renew my heart and mind, and let Your Spirit produce good fruit through me. May my transformation glorify You and encourage others to seek You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🌿 ✨





Day 6: 🧡 Restitution: Making Amends Like Zacchaeus



Day 6: 🧡 Restitution: Making Amends Like Zacchaeus

Your Verse

Luke 19:8 NIV – "Zacchaeus said...I will pay back four times the amount..."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 28:13 NIV – "Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy."*
- *Matthew 5:23-24 NIV – "Be reconciled to your brother...first be reconciled to them."*



Day 6: 🧡 Restitution: Making Amends Like Zacchaeus

Devotional: Restoring What's Broken to Reflect God's Justice

Repentance naturally leads to restitution, the act of making amends and restoring what was lost. Zacchaeus sets an extraordinary example by pledging to repay four times what he had wrongfully taken—a public commitment to justice and mercy.

Restitution heals wounds caused by sin and demonstrates sincere repentance. It restores relationships with others and with God, reflecting the heart of God's justice and love. While the exact restitution Zacchaeus made may not always be possible for us, the principle of seeking to repair harm is vital.

Ask yourself: Are there people or situations in your life needing restoration? What might restitution look like in your context? Embracing restitution paves the way for reconciliation and peace.



Reflect and Apply

1. What relationships in your life need healing and restoration?

2. How do you balance grace with the responsibility to make things right?

3. What practical steps can you take toward restitution today?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when making amends brought healing.

2. List areas where you feel called to pursue restitution.

3. Reflect on how restitution impacts your relationship with God and others.



Day 6: 🍷 Restitution: Making Amends Like Zacchaeus

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for showing me the power of making things right. Give me courage and wisdom to seek restitution where I have caused harm. Help me to walk the path of reconciliation with humility and grace. Restore broken relationships and heal the wounds that sin has caused. *Lead me in Your justice and mercy.* Amen. 🙏❤️🔒





Day 7: 🎉 The Joy of Salvation and New Life



Day 7: 🎉 The Joy of Salvation and New Life

Your Verse

Luke 19:9 NIV – “Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house.’”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 126:3 NIV – “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”*
- *Romans 15:13 NIV – “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.”*



Day 7: 🎉 The Joy of Salvation and New Life

Devotional: Embracing the Joy of God's Salvation

The story culminates in the joyful declaration that salvation has come to Zacchaeus' house. The personal transformation and repentance lead to salvation—a restored relationship with God that brings peace and joy.

Salvation is a gift that prompts celebration and witness. Zacchaeus' life became a testimony to God's power to redeem and transform lives. His joy radiated as he embraced a new purpose filled with generosity and faith.

Reflect on the joy of salvation you have received or expect to receive. Joy in Christ is deep and abiding, not based on circumstances but on the assurance of God's love and forgiveness. This joy propels us into lives of gratitude and service.



Day 7: 🎉 The Joy of Salvation and New Life

Reflect and Apply

1. How has salvation brought joy to your life?

2. In what ways can you share the joy of Christ with others?

3. What does it mean to live as a house transformed by salvation?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about moments when you've experienced the joy of God's salvation.

2. List ways you can express gratitude for salvation in practical ways.

3. Reflect on how salvation has changed your outlook and relationships.



Day 7: 🎉 The Joy of Salvation and New Life

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for the joy and peace that salvation brings. Fill my heart with gratitude and hope as I walk in newness of life. Help me to shine Your light and share this joy with others who need You. May my life be a celebration of Your transforming grace. *Amen.* 🎉💖🙏





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