



Week 4: January 26 – February 1

10min

Welcome / Introduce Guests

Celebrate Relational Connections from the Last Week / Open in Prayer / Recall the Guidelines

2min

Share the Vision: It is often easy for us to think that our relationship with God and with His church is about us. This kind of thinking is dangerous. Our lives are not about us. They have never been about us. We exist for God's glory. The most satisfying and fulfilling life is a life fully surrendered to God and His purposes.

5min

Hook Question: What are some common ways you tend to make your life about you instead of about Jesus?

2min

Retell Last Week's Story: *Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector (Luke 19:1-10).*

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

2min

Last week's story reminds us of how the people of Israel despised tax collectors. In the eyes of the Jews, tax collectors were chief among sinners. Tax collectors were known to be lying, thieving, backstabbers. It was socially unacceptable for a religious leader to be seen with the likes of adulterers, thieves, and tax collectors. Early on, even Jesus's closest disciples would have immediately passed judgement on every tax collector.

Jesus saw people differently. He didn't use the same measuring stick that others used to pass judgement. While others lumped people all into one group, Jesus looked past the outward appearance of individuals and saw their hearts. The religious leaders of the day saw tax collectors as intolerable, but Jesus was more appalled by the hypocritical judgements of those religious leaders than He was by notorious sinners!

Today's story is our last story in this series called *In Your Corner*. This story takes place towards the beginning of Jesus's ministry with His disciples. He had gathered some disciples to follow Him at this point, but not all the twelve had been assembled yet. One of the twelve He had not yet called was Matthew (or Levi) the tax collector. As you hear this story, think about how others (including Jesus's own disciples) would have felt about what Jesus was doing. Do your best to place yourself in their shoes. Can you understand their judgement towards Jesus? What made Jesus so different? This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from Luke 5:27-32: *Remember to change up the storyteller often.*

12min

Rebuild the story: *Group members retell the story based on what they remember.*

Watch the Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLCSVjHKQjk> (if possible, play this video)

Read the story from Luke 5:27-32: *Ask the group to read these verses.*

Discussion Questions: learn to talk about God's Word with others...

Head
Questions:
Quicker
tempo.

- What stands out to you in this story? Why?
- What does this story teach you about people?
- What does this story teach you about God?

Heart & Hand
Questions:
Slow down &
wait!

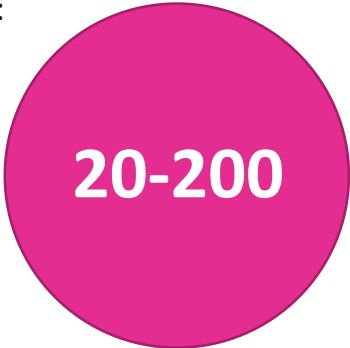
- What do you think God is trying to show you through this story and our discussion?
- Who could retell the story for us right here one last time?

Thank your storyteller for sharing the Word. Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in prayer.



Week 4: Multiplying Circles

Through our recent stories and coaching guides, we have seen that discipleship is nothing if it is not intentional. We have been considering our own intentionality when it comes to the closest relationships in our lives:



As we conclude this series, take a moment to consider the people God has asked you to place in your closest circle. Who are they?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Jesus had twelve close disciples that He was most intentional with relationally. Within those twelve, Jesus had three that were even closer (Peter, James, and John).

However, the discipleship Jesus did with the twelve was never just about the twelve. His discipleship with the twelve was about the thousands upon thousands more who were lost in sin and in desperate need of a Savior. Listen to what Jesus told the twelve...

Matthew 9:37-38

37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

We saw Jesus expand outside the twelve with the wedding feast, with the woman at the well, and with Zacchaeus. Jesus was not forming a club; He was assembling a task force that would go out and impact the world. Our goal with the 3-15 should not be to form a holy huddle! Our goal should be to raise them up and send them out into the world to make disciples of Jesus and live on mission for Him. **The goal is to MULTIPLY CIRCLES so that we raise up disciple-makers who have intentional circles of their own!**

For this to happen, we must model evangelism and discipleship for them. They need to see us stop and minister to others, just like Jesus's disciples saw Jesus stop and minister to the people in our recent stories.

To reach our goal, we need to do some evaluating:

1. Have you created enough margin in your finances and schedule to be available to disciple others and model loving the lost for them? If not, what do you need to change?
2. Do you know how to be relational with others and how to transition relational conversations into gospel-centered conversations? If not, who can you ask to teach you?
3. Are there people in your life that you can take notice of right now and begin to connect with to lead them to the Lord and to a connection with His church? If not, where do you need to go?

Father, use us! Transform our church into YOUR church. Give us Your heart and Your mission for YOUR GLORY. Help us follow Your example and get into the corners of people who need You. Amen!