



OVERVIEW

Main Point: Turning to the One who has redeemed us

Key Passages: Luke 19:1-10; Luke 10:38-42; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19; Exodus 3:1-14

INFORMATION FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

This small group experience is designed for leaders to engage students in conversation after the sermon. During your small group time, encourage your students to talk, discuss, and open up. As a leader, do not be afraid of awkward silence. Allow God to work during this time while you facilitate the conversation as the students talk. Don't be afraid to unpack what it means to be a Christian. This series is designed to spark salvation conversations and help students turn to God.



Hey Small Group Leader!

We are stoked that you are serving at a retreat in order to share the love and grace of Jesus with students. Our prayers are with you!

As you prepare to lead these sessions, there are a few quick tips we want to pass your way. **Small group leaders are the most influential people at a retreat** – so pray hard, prepare well, and magnify Jesus!

Reminders for Small Group Leaders:

- **Prepare in advance.** Creativity doesn't happen overnight. Let the Bible passages marinate in your own heart before teaching the sessions.
- **Pray for your students.** You can begin praying for the students even before you know which ones will be in your group. Pray for their hearts. Pray for their parents. Pray for their salvation.
- **Make necessary changes to each lesson.** The best curriculum is still too general to connect in every ministry context. You are the expert on your students. Feel free to take notes and add questions to the sessions.
- **Facilitate a conversation.** You should not monopolize the teaching time. Allow students to discuss, reflect on, and internalize the content.

Additional Resources for You:

Ministry Bubble is a content creation company that produces studies, books, and articles for youth ministries. Looking for resources to continue discipling students after your event? Then check out the links below for Ministry Bubble's divisions!

- ChaseSnyder.blog – Articles about leadership and discipleship.
- YouthMinStudies.com – Downloadable and customizable studies.
- 228Publishers.com – Paperback books and devotionals.

Blessings,

The Ministry Bubble Team

About The Author

Chase Snyder

Chase is the High School and Young Adults Pastor at FBC Loganville in Metro Atlanta, GA. He is the founder of MinistryBubble.com.

Chase is the author of *Doer: Becoming a Christian Who Acts In A Passive Culture*, *Doer of God's Word: A 30 Day Devotional For Students*, and *Stoked: 6 Questions To Fuel Your Fire For Jesus*.

He and his wife, Anne, have two children, Tripp and Brooke. His family seeks to live a life that honors God and encourages others to serve God in their day-to-day lives. His heart is to encourage and equip those who are in church to seek those who are unchurched and de-churched.

Find out more about Chase's books and ministry at
ChaseSnyder.blog

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @ChaseSnyder12

Session Overview

Session 1: Zacchaeus' Distraction

The crowd was too great for Zacchaeus to get a glimpse of Jesus. Instead of giving up and heading back home, Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see above the crowds and meet Jesus. This session discusses that the people we keep around us will often cause us to miss out on Jesus. Over the next four sessions we will ensure that we get away from the crowd and meet with Jesus because He knows us!

- **Main Point:** Turn to Jesus: He knows your name
- **Main Passage:** Luke 19:1-10

Session 2: Martha's Busyness

During the busyness of life, we can fill every minute of our day with everything except Jesus! This is exactly what happened to Martha. Jesus was literally in her living room, but she was convinced that there were more important tasks to be completed than to sit with Jesus. This session will talk about the importance of sitting with Jesus and learning from Him each day.

- **Main Point:** Turn to Jesus: He is in control
- **Main Passage:** Luke 10:38-42

Session 3: Peter's Comeback

Jesus told Peter that he would deny Jesus before the evening was over. And sure enough, as the rooster crowed Peter denied his friendship with Jesus three times. But Peter's story doesn't end there. Forgiveness was extended, and Peter became the leader of the early church. Jesus' grace makes comebacks like this possible for all of us.

- **Main Point:** Turn to Jesus: His forgiveness is available
- **Main Passages:** Luke 22:54-62 & John 21:15-19

Session 4: Moses' Mission

"Who am I to go?" This was Moses' response when God commissioned him to return to Egypt and deliver God's people to the Promised Land. Jesus gave His disciples a similar call to go and create disciples throughout the entire world. Turning your life over to Jesus means you will turn your life over to pointing others to Jesus.

- **Main Point:** Turn to Jesus: He will lead you on mission
- **Main Passage:** Exodus 3:1-14

Session Flow

Set The Stage

5-7 minutes

We know how hard it is to keep students focused on the sermon topic as they make their way back to host homes or transition into rooms after the service. “Set The Stage” is a time to rein it back in and focus for the session.

Large Talk Recap

5-7 minutes

The main point of the sermon will be the same main point that you will discuss with your students during each session. The “Large Talk Recap” will bring in a few ideas from the sermon to align the group for digging into God’s Word. Be ready to share your personal struggles with listening to God’s Word and applying it in your daily life. *Your transparency may enable Gospel transformation.* Be ready to encourage and engage students during this time.

God’s Word

10-15 minutes

Each session will dig into one key passage from God’s Word. As best as you can, engage each student in conversation. The questions will focus on unpacking how the original hearers and audience felt, thought, wondered, and responded.

Our Response

10-15 minutes

Once the original intent of the biblical passage is understood, it will be time to focus on how the students should respond to the biblical truth. The “Our Response” section is designed to spark awe, confession, thanksgiving, worship, or surrender. This is where the Gospel of Jesus hits our collective heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Your Move

10-15 minutes

The aim of these sessions is for your students to take action on God’s Word. The “Your Move” section will focus on how students can get past their pride and comfort and start living the faith that they proclaim during worship. Students will need encouragement to take risks, set goals, and break habits. Be ready to pray with and encourage the students as they prepare to apply God’s Word to their day-to-day lives.

** Remember, you know your students best. ***The best curriculum is still written for students in general, not for your specific group.*** Take a few minutes and personalize this small group lesson to ensure that it connects with your specific group of students.

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RADICALLY CHANGED

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

SESSION 1: Zacchaeus' Distraction

The Study

The crowd was too great for Zacchaeus to get a glimpse of Jesus. Instead of giving up and heading back home, Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see above the crowds and meet Jesus. This session discusses that the people we keep around us will often cause us to miss out on Jesus. Over the next four sessions we will ensure that we get away from the crowd and meet with Jesus because He knows us!

- **Main Point:** Turn to Jesus: He knows your name
- **Main Passage:** Luke 19:1-10

The Supplies

- Small group leader guide
- Small group student guide (1 per student)
- Ink pens (1 per student)

Need Additional Resources?

Looking for more resources? We create customizable resources to help you reach the students in your community.

Head to www.MinistryBubble.com for books, trainings, blog posts, and digital studies.

About The Passage: Luke 19:1-10

About The Book:

The book of Luke was written by Luke somewhere between 60-70 AD. It has been held by church tradition that Luke was a Gentile physician who would have come to faith after Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

The intended audience would have been Gentiles who were not yet Christians or who were new to the faith. The purpose of the book was to strengthen the Gentiles' faith in Jesus by showing them the life of Jesus and confirming their faith in the midst of an oppressive Roman government.

Luke seems to be writing with an emphasis that communicates Jesus' concern for all people – even children, women, sinners, and the poor, who would have been marginalized during the first century. Jesus' compassion and interaction with all people is a strong indicator of His mission to seek and save those who are far away from God (Luke 19:10).

About The Passage:

Luke 19:1-10 is a widely known passage in the church, mainly because of the children's song about Zacchaeus being a "wee-little man." This passage cuts deeper than Zacchaeus' physical stature and records his spiritual transformation.

The people in the crowd obstruct Zacchaeus' view of Jesus, and they are quick to throw past sins in his face.

As you prepare this session, consider the magnitude of Zacchaeus' surrender and the absurd length he went to – climbing a tree in a public place – in order to turn to Jesus.

Sermon Notes:

Speaker: _____

Bible Verses: _____

Songs I Liked: _____

Notes:

Questions To Ask Students During The Session:

Session 1: Zacchaeus' Distraction

Set The Stage

Leader Tip: Start the session off with a quick prayer. Do not ask for prayer requests at this time. Pray for guidance, focus, and a fresh movement of God's Spirit.

Say This: Whenever there are crowds of people walking in different directions, they tend to form into traffic patterns. A good example of this happens during class change time at school or during a busy weekend at the mall – everyone seems to naturally walk to the right side of the hallways to get where they are going.

1. Why do people tend to walk to the right when in a large crowd? Does it serve a purpose?
2. What happens if someone decides to walk against the crowd?
3. How does this concept appear in our spiritual lives too?

Large Talk Recap

1. What were the most memorable one or two concepts you heard the speaker discuss?
2. Why do you think those concepts in particular stuck out to you?
3. What do you think the main takeaway of the talk was?
4. What did the passage of Scripture reveal to you about God's character or His heart?

God's Word

Transition to God's Word:

Ask a student to read the passage below.

Luke 19:1-10

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸But 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."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

1. How do you think the people of Jericho would have treated Zacchaeus because of his profession?

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and a rich one at that. His wealth came by cheating the people of Jericho out of their hard-earned money. While Zacchaeus was buying new clothes, the townspeople were struggling to feed their children.

Tax collectors were some of the most hated people during Jesus' day, so it is safe to assume that the crowd did not want to associate with Zacchaeus. Men and women avoided him. They made jokes about him. He would have felt alone even when surrounded by a crowd.

2. Do you remember a time you sat across from a person who didn't like you? How did you feel during that interaction?

Leader Tip: As the leader, be weary of adding in a personal story here. Allow the students to throw some answers around as you facilitate the conversation.

3. Do you think Zacchaeus was hesitant about running up the tree or concerned about what others might think about him climbing a tree?

If you think about it, it's quite absurd that such a rich and powerful man decided to climb a tree to see Jesus. It would be like seeing a businessman climb a tree in a suit. This would have been an awkward and tense scene. Zacchaeus threw off every ounce of shame and consideration about what the crowd thought. His only aim was to see Jesus.

4. What emotions do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by his name?

As stated above, Zacchaeus would have been a well-known person in the community because of his profession. But well known would not have meant he was well respected. Jesus calling Zacchaeus would have been a warm welcome in his life. For once, someone looked him in the eyes and wanted to talk with him, not merely talk about him.

5. What was Jesus' response to the crowd's concern about Zacchaeus' past identity?

Jesus responds to the crowd by speaking to Zacchaeus' spiritual transformation. The people in the crowd – i.e. those who are not followers of Jesus – often bring past sins to light and disregard the spiritual transformation that has happened in a new disciple's life.

Our Response

Leader Tip: Allow the students to internalize the Scriptures during this portion. Remember to facilitate discussion. As tempting as it may be, don't answer these questions for them. Allow the Holy Spirit to work in their minds and hearts.

1. For your peer group, do you think people aim to see Jesus at any cost or aim to keep walking and blend into the crowd? Why?
2. What things get in the way of seeing Jesus during our day-to-day lives?
3. What actions do we need to take to rise above the crowd and remove the distractions that separate us from Jesus?
4. What would your advice be to someone who is a new follower of Jesus but who, like Zacchaeus, has the history and reputation of a "tax collector"?

Your Move

Main Point: Turn to Jesus: He knows your name

Say This: We are convinced that the crowd of people we surround ourselves with will bring us lasting acceptance, peace, and love. Zacchaeus realized that more than people or money, he needed Jesus. The best part of this account is the reminder that Jesus knows our names.

1. What distractions in your life are keeping you from seeing Jesus?

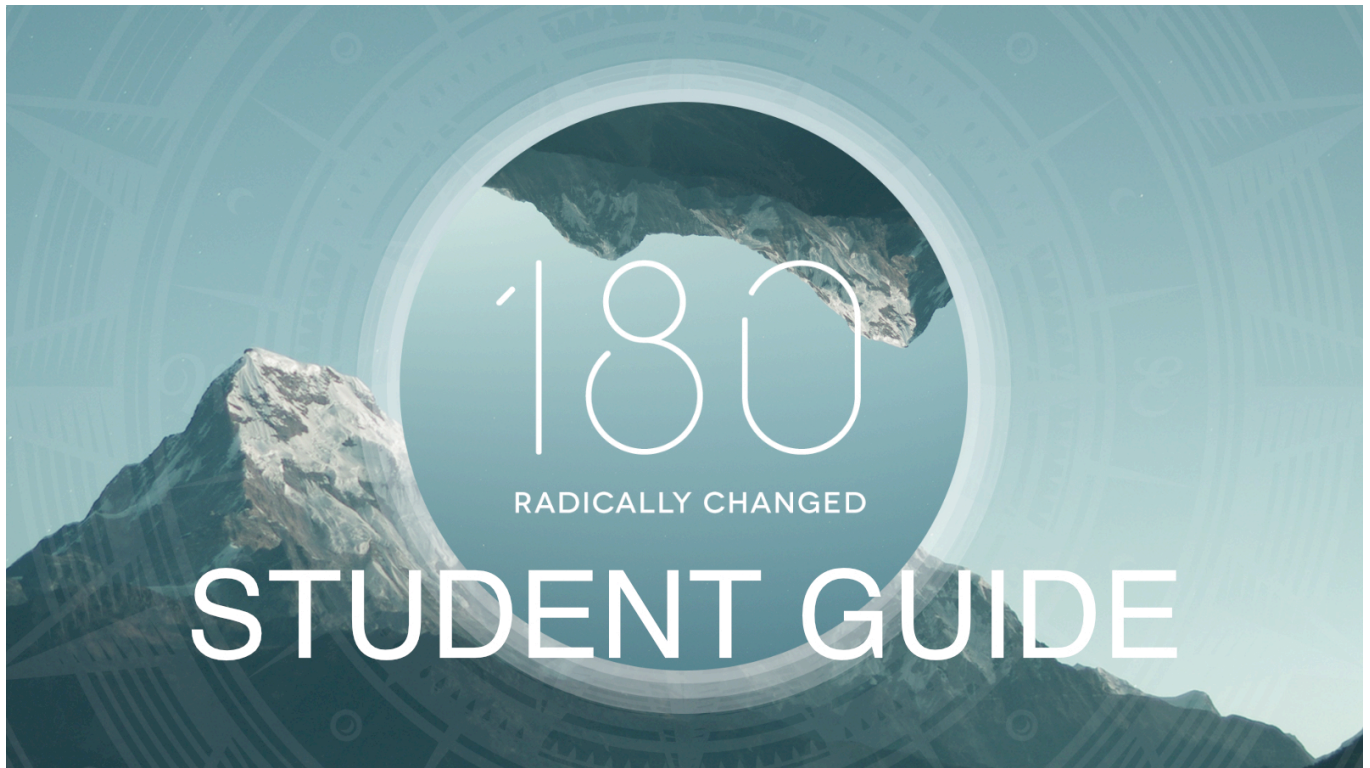
Leader Tip: This could be anything from a group of friends, family members, video games, habits, or sins. Maybe you can answer this question first and establish a group level of honesty and vulnerability for this question.

2. What is one specific way you can rise above that distraction to see Jesus?

Leader Tip: Be careful not to communicate behavior modification. We know that the Gospel of Jesus transforms lives. Lead the students to discuss the need to turn to Jesus, not just remove a sin.

3. Who is a friend that does not want to keep walking with the crowd that can help you turn to Jesus?

End the session in prayer.



OVERVIEW

Main Point: Turning to the One who has redeemed us

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180: One-Eighty

Are you too busy to turn your focus to Jesus? It is crazy how quickly we can get swamped with homework, sports, family, and our hobbies. Many of us need a time to slow down and turn our focus to Jesus.

Over the next four sessions, you will study about four people who encountered Jesus and made a 180-degree turn to follow Him.

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RADICALLY CHANGED

SMALL GROUP STUDENT GUIDE

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