

City Nights

Youth.

DATE

November 19th, 2025

SERIES

ONE LIFE: Week Two

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

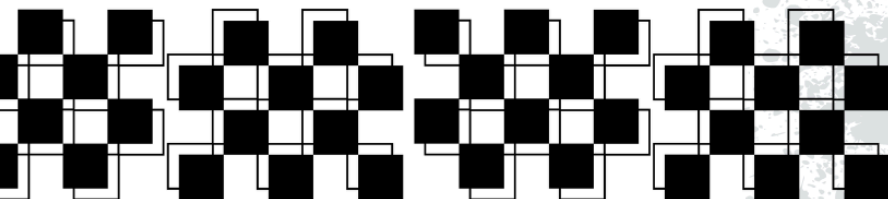
Evangelism means forming meaningful relationships

SCRIPTURE:

- Luke 19:1-10

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that life change happens through meaningful relationships and connection.



THINK ABOUT THIS:

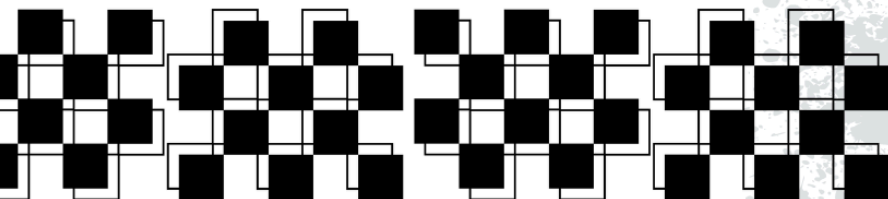
This week's teaching continues Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus, where He chooses connection over condemnation. Instead of calling out Zacchaeus' failures, Jesus invites Himself into a relationship with him. This posture models how we are called to engage with people in our lives, especially those who may be far from God. The goal is not to correct behavior first, but to build trust, presence, and belonging. Leaders can help their group reflect on how Jesus' approach contrasts with how we often instinctively respond to people's brokenness.

As the story continues, we see that relationships lead to transformation. Zacchaeus' life change doesn't happen because Jesus pressures him, it happens because Jesus draws near. This is a crucial reminder for our ONE LIFE: they are not a project or a metric. They are a person worthy of dignity and friendship. Encourage your group to consider how an authentic relationship opens doors for spiritual growth far more effectively than arguments or agendas. Help them explore the difference between "loving someone for who they are" and "loving them so that you can get something from them."

Finally, the passage shows that evangelism is a lifestyle, not an event. Jesus is simply living on mission in His everyday rhythms, and we are invited to do the same. As you lead your group, reinforce the takeaway challenge: "Don't make people projects; make them friends." Invite group members to identify one person they can pursue with intentional care this week. The goal is not a sales pitch but a meaningful conversation. It's asking good questions, listening well, and showing deep care. Remind your leaders that transformation is God's work; our role is to show up with love, patience, and presence.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. The goal is to get students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.

DURING COMMUNITY GROUP



HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

ICEBREAKER:

What's something about you that you think most people don't know?

SCRIPTURE/VIDEO DISCUSSION:

(Some groups may watch the video to begin Group time and then break off into their smaller groups, and that's okay)

DISCUSS THIS

1. Can you think of a time when someone chose connection with you over judgment?
How did it impact you?
2. What does it look like to treat someone as a person rather than a project?
3. Do you think it's easy for you to treat others as projects, rather than people?
4. How can we guard our hearts from seeing people as projects?
5. Zacchaeus' life changes because of a relationship. Why do you think a genuine relationship has such a powerful effect on spiritual transformation?
6. How does Jesus' approach to Zacchaeus differ from the way Christians often approach evangelism? What can we learn and apply?
7. What are some fears or barriers that keep you from pursuing deeper relationships with people far from God?
8. What's one way you can form a greater connection with your ONE LIFE this week?

