

STUDY GUIDE

NEVER THE SAME 3.8.15

[setup]

Explore various ways that people can experience rejection in life. How might people experience rejection at home, at school, in sports, at work, at church? (If you have access to large Post-its, you might want to list the various forms of rejection as people in the LifeGroup share them.)

How can these various forms of rejection impact our lives? What are some sinful ways that people respond to the brokenness of rejection?

We've all experienced differing levels of rejection in our lives. What are some painful stories of rejection that you have encountered?

[digging deeper]

Read Luke 19:1-10.

Why were tax collectors so despised in ancient Israel? (Read the following article for more insight: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-tax-collectors.html>)

Think: Based on the text and the context, what might be the kinds of rejection that Zacchaeus faced?

How does Zacchaeus compare with the rich young ruler? (See Luke 18: 18-30.)

Why does Jesus want to dine with Zacchaeus? Why does the fact that Jesus wants to dine with Zacchaeus bother the others in the crowd?

Look carefully at the text. What are the elements of Zacchaeus' response to the words of Jesus? What does this tell us about how we must respond today?

On what basis does Jesus confirm Zacchaeus' salvation? (See Luke 19:8-9).

Re-read Luke 19:9-10. Do you think Jesus' words stopped the crowd's muttering and grumbling? Why or why not?

"Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham." What is Jesus saying about Zacchaeus here? (See Galatians 3:6-9 and John Piper's sermon on this text: <http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/those-who-have-faith-are-the-sons-of-abraham>)

Jesus once said, "As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you" (John 20:21). Now, re-read Luke 19:10. How has the Father sent Jesus? How is the Father sending you?

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[live it out]

Think again about the rejection you've encountered in your life. What difference can it make in your life to know that you know that Jesus accepts you – that you are a Beloved Child?

Which of the following facts about Christ's acceptance of you has meant the most in your life? Why? 1) Jesus has come for me (Luke 19:5a). 2) Jesus has looked at me (Luke 19:5b). 3) Jesus has called to me (Luke 19:5c). 4) Jesus has stayed (and will stay) with me (Luke 19:5d).

Look up the following verses and – together as a group – write out your group's unique statement about the acceptance of Christ: Romans 8:1, Psalm 17:8, Isaiah 49:16, Zephaniah 3:17, Jeremiah 31:3, Deuteronomy 31:6, , and Romans 15:7. (Note: Your manifesto might follow the pattern and tone of Robert McGee's statement from *The Search for Significance*: "I have great worth apart from my performance because Christ gave His life for me, and therefore, imparted great value to me. I am deeply loved, totally forgiven, accepted and complete in Christ.")

Share with your group the name of a person in your circle of influence who has not yet received the acceptance of Christ. Consider sending a note to that person with the words of the statement you crafted with your group.

Keep encouraging the members of your LifeGroup to engage in NewLife 10|24 conversations. Ask, "Who's had a NewLife conversation in the past 2 weeks?"

Close your time by praying for one another to know the acceptance of Christ and to live as a Beloved Child. Also, spend some time praying for the NewLife 10|24 names that God brings to your heart.