

Pursued by God's Love

The God Experience Series –Part 2

Connect: Discuss the statement, “The deepest desire of the human heart is to be truly known and accepted for who we are.” Is this true? Why or why not?

In the second lesson of “The God Experience” series, we learn that God has a simple view of life that includes three expectations: 1) Know that God loves you, 2) Love God back, and 3) Love others like God does. In our small group study, let’s look at an example where Christ pursues a hated man and his life and the life of others were changed.

1. Jesus entered Jericho and made His way through the town.
2. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.
3. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.
4. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.
5. When Jesus came by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" He said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."
6. Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.
7. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.
8. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"
9. Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.
10. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

What obstacles (and there were several) did Zacchaeus face in his life that could have hindered him from knowing who Jesus really was?

Have you experienced any of these obstacles from others in your life?

What person in your life has taken the initiative to pursue a love relationship with you? How could you tell it was genuine?

What evidence is there in this story that Zacchaeus was being pursued by God?

God has invited each of us into a love relationship with Him. How has God done that with you?

How do we know that Zacchaeus loved God and loved others?

In what ways might you show God's love to others this week?