

Comunidade Cristã Internacional

LIÇÃO 1 - ABC SENIOR

**FROM SELF ESTEEM TO GOD
ESTEEMED**

The Story of Zacchaeus

There was a man called Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and a rich man. He wanted to see Jesus but was limited by his height; nevertheless, he climbed a sycamore tree nearby to be able to see him.

Jesus spotted Zacchaeus on the tree and ordered him to come down quickly because he would be staying the night at Zacchaeus house. While Zacchaeus received the command cheerfully and followed it, onlookers were unhappy judging Zacchaeus according to his sin and questioning why Jesus Would choose to reside with him. However , Zacchaeus received Jesus and willfully restored over and above whatever he had taken as well as a donation to the poor. In closing Jesus reminded Zacchaeus that salvation is also his inheritance because he is part of the lineage of Abraham. In the last verse Jesus reiterated that he had come for the sinners.

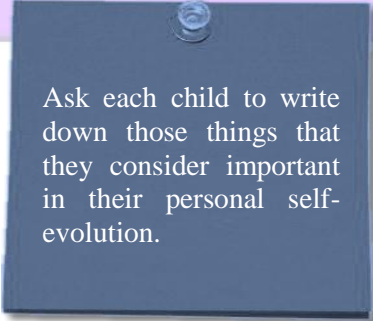
Bible Reading: Luke 19:1-10

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, but because he was short he could not see over the the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see hi, since Jesus was coming the way. ⁵ When 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 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 come to seek and save the last.”

Points for Discussion

3. What do I do With my limitations?

We are living in an age where we are constantly being evaluated by possessions and appearances and consequently young children self esteem has become a measure of these things. Self esteem is the way in which we see ourselves and can be a positive or negative evaluation.

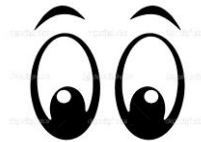


Ask each child to write down those things that they consider important in their personal self-evolution.

Despite Zacchaeus having wealth and the status, he was still limited by his height. Zacchaeus did not allow his limitation to stand in the way of meeting with Jesus. As young adult remember Jesus command to shine your shine your light before men that they may know your good works and your father in heaven maybe glorified (Matthew 5:16). So we all have our limitations but we should not allow our light to be blotted out by them.

- What are some of your weaknesses and some ingenious ways to overcome them like Zacchaeus did?

So what is the purpose of our limitations, consider 2 Corinthians 12:7; “there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, that I should not be exalted excessively.” When Zacchaeus received Jesus, he did not let his status and money influence his reception. He was joyfully obedient to Jesus’ command for him to come down the tree. Our limitations allow us to be humble at all times, in order to answer to the call of God.



2. Seeing yourself through God’s eyes.

As children of God we are not called to strive for the things that world esteem but are called to; grow into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

- Write a list of the attributes of Christ, you want to acquire. (Fruits of the spirit etc.)

Zacchaeus had a genuine desire to see Jesus and know who he was, this was made manifest by him climbing the sycamore tree. God did not see his limitation but knew his true intent. In Luke 19:10 God reminds us that he has come for the sinners and as human beings we are all sinners. But we should not let this sin define who we are in Christ.

- Write down instances in the Bible where God tells us how he sees us. (Psalms 130:14; 1 Peter 2:9)

Had Zacchaeus evaluated himself by money, a metaphor for the material things of this world, he would have missed out on his salvation. We must be able to let go of material things like Zacchaeus gave up his money in order to inherit our heavenly blessings.

3. Does what other people think matter?

The people questioned why Jesus chose to visit Zacchaeus’ house. They judged Zacchaeus by his sin.

Psalms 51: 3-4; ³For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin (is) ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned and done (this) evil in thy sight: that thou mightiest be justified when thou speakest, (and) be clear when thou judgest. While people will judge you by the errors you make, God alone is the righteous judge. Jesus was able to see into Zacchaeus’ inward parts and see his genuine desire to meet with him.

Psalms 51:6 ‘Behold, thou desires truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden (part) thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Question

1. What was the reason that Zacchaeus could not see Jesus? And what to these represent in our lives as Christians?
2. What did Zacchaeus do that shows as he had a genuine desire to see Jesus?
3. By what did the people evaluate Zacchaeus and by what did Jesus evaluate Zacchaeus?
4. How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus? How does this illustrate the principle of 'reception determines reward'?
5. What are some of the proactive steps Zacchaeus took for his deliverance?

Practical Illustration of Lesson

As children of God we should not be like those around Zacchaeus and discourage those who seek Jesus. We as a family of God should encourage one another in our quest for Christ (Romans 12:10)

Ask your children to use an A4 sheet of paper and write their name in large capitals on the top of the page

There after the page should be passed around for all other children to write down a POSITIVE and a NEGATIVE attribute about the other child. They should then fold the paper covering their writing and pass onto the next child so each person gets a turn.

The page should then be returned to the respective child and they should be allowed to read this, in order to get more insight into their strengths and weaknesses.

This allows us not only to be able to see the God attributes in one another but also teaches us to encourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord