

Week 3: Zacchaeus

Focus verse: “Each should give what they have decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9: 7,8

This week’s Bible reading: Luke 19: 1-10

Additional Bible Readings:

- Deuteronomy 15:7-15
- Genesis 28:18-22
- 2 Chronicles 31:1-10
- Luke 12:33-34
- 2 Corinthians 8:7-9

Videos Resources:

David Flowers – Whose Money is it? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8CsHM5w30s>

Generosity Stories – Bethan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T72z0MOUnoc>

Prayers

Thematic Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for the signs of newness and change that we can observe in the story of Zacchaeus. Help us to be prepared to be open to the power of your Holy Spirit to bring about change in our attitudes and behaviour. May generosity, integrity and a spirit of righteousness be the hallmarks of our discipleship. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful One, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

*Lord, when we resist your work within us; Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Jesus, when we prefer not to be changed; Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, when our attitudes are moulded by hardness of heart; Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

Collect

Heavenly Father, your love for us is beyond measure and you provide for our every need. Help us to offer you in worship a due proportion of our wealth, for all we are and have is rightly yours. We make our prayer in the precious name of Jesus, Lord and Saviour of creation. Amen

A Prayer for Giving

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for you and our neighbour. Make us mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving, remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours. Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we might live. Amen.

Prayer of Declaration

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

*In humility of heart let us pray to God the Father of all. Lord, in Jesus we see how you lovingly call all sorts of people and then change them from within; take our hearts and minds, live in us today and every day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

*Lord, in Zacchaeus we see how your call produced a new attitude to wealth and possessions; pour your love within us that we may experience a real closeness to you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Lord, in Zacchaeus we see how Jesus produced a newness of life; work in the hearts of all in authority in our world that

they may work for a more equal sharing of resources with those who are poor, hungry and destitute.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Lord, you teach us to bring your healing to the sick and suffering; may your healing be upon those whom we name before you now.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Lord, your Word teaches us to love your Church, the Body of Christ; make us generous in support of its mission and ministry.

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offertory

Consider all that God has done for you, especially as you see this in Jesus. 'Count your blessings' and respond with appropriate generosity from your material wealth.

Blessing

*May God our Father, whose grace is everlastingly poured into our hearts, fill you with an overflowing love. **Amen.***

*May God the Son, through whose death and resurrection we receive life in abundance, shine in your lives. **Amen.***

*May God the Holy Spirit, who works in us and through us to redeem God's world, give you the power and persistence to follow him. **Amen.***

*And may Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.***