

Value People

As Christ-followers, we don't just show the way, we lead the way. But what does it look like for all of us to lead? How do we lead from where God has us right now? Let's look at some real-life examples from the Bible and learn how it's done.



INTRODUCTION

This sermon took us to Luke 19:1-10, a story about Zacchaeus, the tax collector. While many of us may have heard the story or sang a song about Zacchaeus as a child, we may not have realized that the story provides important guidance on how we can follow Jesus and “Lead the Way” by valuing and respecting others.

STARTER QUESTION

Can you imagine how excited Zacchaeus was when Jesus spoke his name, given that he had never met Him before? Well guess what, Jesus knows your name, too, and values you just as He did Zacchaeus! How do you think you would have responded had you been Zacchaeus?

INTO THE WORD

Luke 19:1–10 described how Zacchaeus' life was interrupted when Jesus asked to visit his home—the home of a sinner. Can you share a time in your life when an interruption or redirection in your day was perhaps a God-appointment? Describe how you think it was transformational.

Think of other ordinary people from the Bible that God called on to do great things. Pick one and review the story in scripture as a group. How did their appointment from God transform lives? How might things have turned out differently had they responded to events as an interruption rather than a Divine appointment?

APPLICATION

Pastor David mentioned that we are to lead the way by putting on lenses that allow us to view the world and people with vision and faith, the way Jesus sees us all. Discuss practical ways to live as a Follower-Leader by treating every person with God-given value? How and why do you think this idea has eroded in today's culture?

Consider a few people who are right in front of you that may not always come immediately to mind, some who may not fit inside a typical "box" for where you are in life, as well as those with whom you may be close. Discuss what it might look like to show them that God loves and values them, perhaps by sacrificing some of your time or stepping outside your comfort zone.

Fairhaven's Christmas Store is right around the corner! If you have helped with this project in the past, please share your experience and how it relates to this week's sermon. Encourage your group to participate in any way they can.

PRAYER

In the coming week, pray for our Dear Heavenly Father to raise your awareness of people around you. Ask Him to help you seek Him in every interruption and to listen and trust Him fully for the outcome. Pray that you will truly value everyone you encounter as He values us.