

## Reach Out

### Introduction

Our faith is personal, but it is not private. We are ambassadors of the good news of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus instructs us to “let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

How do you shine a light for Christ? When we live out faith in word, speech, and conduct, by aligning our lives to God’s word and will, we shine brightly for him. We bear witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the way that we allow others to see how God has forgiven, healed, and redeemed us. We pray that God would make us bold witnesses, not ashamed of the gospel, to all who will hear. We pray for opportunities to witness to all people, including those most often overlooked, as Jesus did.

Zacchaeus was one such soul. A despised man who was seen as a traitor to his people for collecting taxes for the Roman Empire. A man who made his wealth by collecting exorbitant taxes from the hard working and the poor. He is the man that Jesus notices. Jesus, it seems, does not see the cultural labels we put on each other, instead, in Zacchaeus, he saw a man hungry for the grace and truth of God.

### Read Your Bible

- **Romans 1:16-17**
  
- **Luke 19:1-10**

### Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. What are some of the roadblocks we must overcome personally and culturally to share our faith with others?
2. What does it look like in someone to be ashamed of the Gospel? Unashamed?
3. What do you think Zacchaeus was looking for in Jesus? What did he find?
4. What do you think Jesus saw in Zacchaeus?
5. Do you see others with the eyes of Jesus? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever shared your faith with another person? What was it like? What do you wish you would have known better?
7. Who are the Zacchaeus' in your life that need to hear the Gospel?

### **Reflecting on the text:**

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

### **Pray**

Dear Father, give us the eyes to see, the heart to have courage, and the wisdom to share the message of your son with the world. May we not be ashamed of the Gospel for it is your power of Salvation at work in our lives. Make us bold witnesses of your grace and truth to others. Thank you for redeeming and saving us on the cross. In Jesus' name. Amen.