

HOPE

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction:

God has placed a calling on all of our lives: he wants to know us, to impact us, and through us, bring restoration to our world. We live in a world that desperately needs hope & Jesus is the only place where true hope is found. As we strive to offer the hope of Jesus to our world, sometimes we encounter issues that slow us down: one of those issues is greed.

Scripture:

Luke 19:1-5,8 - Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 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."...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!"

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a trivial or humorous situation in which you are undeniably greedy? (Stephen admitted that when it comes to french fries, sharing is simply out of the question. Do not touch his fries.)
2. In Luke 19, Zacchaeus has been categorized: he is the chief tax collector. This category carries a stigma & causes many people to view him as hopeless. Do you think our society places any similar categories on people? If so, what are they?
3. Zacchaeus has been very greedy, and that greed has stolen his hope. Greed is not simply a financial issue, it is a spiritual issue. Jesus' generosity in offering his time & attention to Zacchaeus changes everything. Have you ever been impacted by someone else's generosity?
4. Greed has a way of making its way into every area of our lives & we all deal with it: greed shows up in our finances, affects our relationships, can determine how we spend our time, and so much more. Where do you find yourself struggling with greed in your life?
5. We all struggle with greed in one way or another, but we can't follow Jesus and stay greedy. What is one concrete step towards generosity that you can take this week, especially in the area you identified in Question 4?

Take the Next Step:

Our level of generosity deeply impacts the velocity with which we experience & share Jesus. As individuals and as a church, we can all practice radical generosity in some way. We should be generous with our money, time, attention, forgiveness, and grace. How will you be radically generous at least once this week?