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GROW **FAITH** • BRING **HOPE** • DEMONSTRATE **LOVE**

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Bible Studies

to accompany

Faith, Hope, Love: The Course

Spring 2022

Telling our Story

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus the tax collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that 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.' 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'

8 But 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.'

9 Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

1. How is Zaccheus described in v2?
2. How do you think he was viewed by his neighbours.?
3. How can Jesus love someone that is viewed so 'badly'?
4. Can/does Jesus love you?
5. What are the obstacles that hinder Zacchaeus coming to Jesus?
6. What obstacles have/do hinder you?
7. When he meets Jesus, how does Zacchaeus respond at first? How does the crowd respond?
8. Have you met Jesus?
9. How did you respond?
10. How did your family and friends respond?
11. If it was a negative response, how did you that make you feel?
12. In v8 Zacchaeus gives his money away. What transformation has Jesus brought to your life?
13. What changes do you think Jesus would want in your life in the future?
14. How does verse 10 and the rest of this passage give you hope?

No matter what 'our story' there is a place for us with Jesus but he will demand change.

Does that excite or terrify you?

How can we help?



Faith and how it shapes our lives

Luke 7:1-10 The Centurion's Slave

When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was ill and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, 'This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.' 6 So Jesus went with them.

He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: 'Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. 7 That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, "Go", and he goes; and that one, "Come", and he comes. I say to my servant, "Do this", and he does it.'

9 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.' 10 Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

1. What was the status of the centurion?
2. How do you think he was feeling?
3. What was his own view of himself?
4. How is this shown?
5. How does Jesus respond?
6. How does Jesus respond in v9 & 10?
7. What is Jesus amazed at?
8. What has the centurion seen in Jesus?
9. How did he show he believed this?
10. How does the centurion's self-view affect Jesus' response?
11. What do you think is the 'right' way to come before Jesus?
12. How is this reflected in our liturgy?
13. Is that reflected in your prayers?
14. Do your actions reflect your beliefs?
15. Do you believe Jesus has authority to heal, conquer evil?
16. How might you change that?

Jesus has authority – do you believe that?
And does your life and actions match that belief?
What help would you like to achieve this?



Hope and the expectation of change

Luke 24.13-27 Emmaus Road

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognising him.

17 He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?'

19 'What things?' he asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.'

25 He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

1. What is your hope?
2. Where do you look to have that hope realised?
3. What did the two men want of Jesus?
4. Did they get it?
5. What was their reaction?
6. So what was their hope and how did they feel when they didn't get it?
7. What should have been their hope?
8. Where would they have found this hope?
9. So how did they have a faulty view of Jesus?
10. False hope/ false picture of Jesus leads the men to being
11. Where do you look for hope?
12. Do you make time every day to read your bible?

Will you commit to reading your bible every day and meeting the real Jesus,
the source of true hope, and what help would you like to do that?



Love and the power to transform

Luke 10.25-37 Good Samaritan

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?'

26 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?'

27 He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbour as yourself."

28 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?'

30 In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

36 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

37 The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'

Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

1. The first two passers by in the story do just that – pass by – why is that not unreasonable?
2. How were Samaritan's viewed by Jews (see Luke 9:51-56)
3. How did the Samaritan react to the beaten man?
4. What did he give to the beaten man?
5. How would you describe the actions of the Samaritan?
6. What does Jesus tell us to do?
7. What characteristics should this show?
8. Are there any limits on whom we show love ?
9. Do those characteristics remind you of anyone?

By behaving as Jesus tells us to here, we will be acting as He did on the cross for us.

Another way of reading this passage is to put ourselves in the place of the beaten man and Jesus as the good Samaritan – what are your reactions?

How does this help you understand Jesus' love for us on the cross?



Choice and the creation of new possibilities

Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal Son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"



1. How do V 11&12 introduce us to the three main characters?
2. How would you summarise the character of each of the three?
 - a. The younger son
 - b. The older son
 - c. The father
3. Who do you think the Father represents?
4. Who do the sons represent?
5. What does this say about how we treat God?

The younger son

6. What is the difference between the younger son's hopes and where he ends up in v16?
7. Why is v 17 the key verse? – 'when he came to his sense' and what does it mean?
 - a. What did he realise about his need?
 - b. What did he realise about other people?
 - c. What did he realise about his father?
 - d. What did he realise about himself?
 - e. What did the younger son decide to do?
8. What will it mean for us to come to our senses?
What must we realise about our need?
What must we realise about God?
What must we realise about ourselves?

The Father

9. What did the father do when the son came home?
V20
V22
V23-24
10. Which of these do you find most surprising? Why?

The older brother

11. How good was the older brother? Did he do what his father wanted?
12. What did he really think of his father?
13. How like his father was the older son? How much did he share what his father longed for?
14. Where does the older son end up at the end of the reading? – outside the party and angry

Who do you identify with in the story?

Are any of the choices made irredeemable?

Both sons in different ways miss the chance of a relationship with their father because of their choices. However, that's not the end of the story. By returning to their father, a whole new world opens to them.

How can this give you Hope for the future and deal with your past?

