

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Finding Zacchaeus” (Gospel of Luke Sermon Series)

Pastor Eugene Lee (guest preacher)
First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu
The Week of April 14, 2013

Message For Your Small Group:

New LIFE TRAINING CLASSES start on Sunday, April 21st! There's at least one class at 8 am, 9:30 am, and 11 am. Check out the brochure at www.fpchawaii.org. We encourage you to not only attend a worship service but to also attend a Life Training class to help you grow in your Christian walk. Select a class, and be there on Sunday!

- 1) What's the main difference do you think between today's tax collectors (working for the IRS) and the tax collectors during Jesus' time in Israel?
- 2) Tax collectors in ancient Israel were despised and regarded as oppressors, exploiters, and apostates (those who forsake their religion, cause, party, etc.). Why was that?
- 3) Pastor Eugene Lee highlighted instances in the gospel of Luke where the writer depicted tax collectors in a positive light. Check out some of these verses, and share your thoughts on how Jesus regarded tax collectors.

Luke 3:12-13 (John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus)

Luke 5:27-31 (The calling of Levi)

Luke 7:28-30 (Jesus talking about John the Baptist)

Luke 15: 1-7 (Jesus telling the parable of the lost sheep)

Luke 18: 9-14 (The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector)

- 4) Who were considered the misfits during Jesus' time?

5) Read Luke 19:1-10

- 6) Was Zacchaeus considered a misfit? Why or why not?
- 7) Why do you think did Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree when he found out that Jesus was passing through Jericho where he lived? Why not just stand among the crowd of people who were also curious about Jesus? What did he hope to see?
- 8) Pastor Eugene mentioned that this story about Zaccheus happened 10 days before Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus was well aware of this and He probably already knew what He needed to do with the time He had left. And yet Jesus stopped to talk and make time for Zacchaeus. What does that tell you about our Lord?
- 9) From the sermon, what was the similarity drawn between the movie *Finding Nemo* and God's love for us?
- 10) How important do you feel you are to the Lord? Share a recent time that supports why you feel that way.