

# October 20 –26

50 | From Rejected to Accepted

**Icebreaker:** Think about a time when you were rejected from a team, a job, or another opportunity. How did that rejection affect the story you tell about yourself?

*In this session, we will examine the same passage as last week but from a different angle as we consider the nature of rejection and the origin of true acceptance.*

## Read Luke 19:1–11

- Summarize Zaccheus’s community standing and people’s view of him.
- What would it mean in that culture to have Jesus ask to come to your house?
- Is it significant that Jesus’ invitation to Zaccheus’s house was so public? Why or why not?
- Why does Jesus mention to Zaccheus that “he, too, is a son of Abraham”? Why is that significant?
- Does Zaccheus’ becoming more generous and honest affect his salvation? How might it affect his relationship with his community?
- Why was the crowd offended that Jesus would meet with a sinner?

## Read Matthew 9:9–13

- How are Matthew and Zacchaeus similar?
- From Matthew’s account, what do we learn about how Jesus views lost people?
- What might Matthew have thought or felt when he witnessed Jesus’ interaction with Zacchaeus?

## Further Study

- Read Luke 23:13–24. Why did people reject Jesus?
- Read Matthew 27:45–46. Talk about the nature of Jesus’ rejection from the Father.
- Read Ephesians 1:3–6. How does God view those who know Jesus?

## Application

- How do we try to compensate for or cover up rejection or loneliness in our own lives?
- Where are you experiencing communities of acceptance? Family? Work? Church?
- How have you been offering love and acceptance to others? Is it hard for you to respond in love to people you see as outsiders? Why or why not?
- Why might Christian communities be tempted to ask sinners to clean up their lives before they come to Jesus?
- How might our pride and understanding of our identity cause us to reject people?
- How can you help bring to church people close to you who feel rejected by God or unworthy to attend?