



### Sentence

Combining faith and film to help everyone see and believe in the true meaning of Christmas.



### Story

Share about a time when you experienced loneliness.

“When I moved away from home...”

“Being single...”

“Sometimes I just push people away...”



### Set-Up

Matthew 18

In this chapter, Jesus gives a few parables and guidelines for what a godly community could and should look like.

Read [Matthew 18:10-14](#)

Jesus emphasizes that we should also seek to include “the one.”

When is the last time you made an effort to love the unloved?



### Search

Read [Luke 19:1-10](#)



[Verses 1-2](#)

What areas do you frequent as you work, play, study, learn, and live?

What people are in those places that you know need to feel included (*actually share their names, if you know them*)?

Zacchaeus was very successful at his job—making money off the people. This made him an enemy to many.

What people in your life that, because of who they are or how they are, need the love of God?

### ➔ Verses 3-4

Zacchaeus craved to be near Jesus, but he experienced an obstacle between them.

What keeps the people you know from knowing God?

How can you help remove obstacles that prevent access to God's community?

### ➔ Verses 5-6

Why do you think Jesus was looking for Zacchaeus?

How can you look for people to invite into your community?

When have you been welcomed gladly? How did that impact your faith?

### ➔ Verses 7-8

Do you worry what others will think if you reach out to the "wrong" people?

Zacchaeus was radically changed when he was welcomed in. How has your community changed you?

### ➔ Verses 9-10

What life change have you seen occur in your community?

How does living in community change a household?



### Solution

1. How will you invite people into your community?

Expand my circle to include unchurched people

Invite a neighbor to church or small group

Ask God to search me for biases that keep me from loving others

Reach out to someone who hasn't been to church in a while

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Read [John 13:35](#)

2. How will you grow in your love for people?

Serve at a local outreach organization

Pray for the Holy Spirit to grow my capacity to love others ([Romans 5:5](#))

Pray for those apart from God in my life and community ([Luke 19:10](#))

Memorize [John 13:35](#)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



### Send Out

Break into groups of 2-3 (*same gender if a coed group*), discuss ways you will strengthen and grow your group. Plan to connect with each other in-person, call, or text this week.

Pray together.