

Higher Definition 1 – RICH Discussion & Reflection Guide

Message & Scripture Discussion

- What's one memory you have where you were truly happy?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- What words or images come to your mind when you hear someone is "rich?"
- Read the story of Zaccheaus in Luke 19:1-10.
 - o What do you notice about Zaccheaus?
 - o What do you notice about the people around him?
 - o What do you notice about Jesus?
- Eddie shared, "No amount of money will make me as happy as God intends me to be." Can you say this/have you experienced this? What has made this clearer to you?
- Eddie also talked about a concept from philosopher, Blaise Pascal, that we all have a
 "God-shaped hole" ...an "infinite abyss" or emptiness that only God can fill. Eddie
 summed it up this way: "The only thing that can fill an infinite abyss is an infinite God."
 Have you ever sensed that there is a part of your soul that can only be filled by God?
 When/how so?
- Sometimes, we wait to begin giving and acting generously until we reach a certain milestone. Eddie challenged this and shared, "Generosity is a vehicle for transformation."
 How has practicing generosity changed you so far? How might God use the practical steps of living and giving generously to change you in the future?
- In the final part of the message, Eddie said, "Money is a tool and a test."
 - How can you view money as a tool? How do you want to use what you have for good?
 - How does seeing money as a test challenge you? What might God be nudging you to do with what he has entrusted to you?
- The worship team introduced a new song: "The Lord Will Provide" by Passion. Look up the song or the lyrics. As you listen to it, is there a phrase that you can use as your prayer today?
- Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Resources to Help with Money Stress – Looking for practical help saving money, paying off debt, budgeting, and living generously? We have put together several resources for you, including books, group opportunities, financial coaching, and more! To learn more, go to <u>wschurch.org/money</u>.

Message Main Points & Scripture

• Luke 19:1-2 – "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."

RICH

- Psalm 63:1 "O God, you are my God. Earnestly I seek you. My soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."
- Luke 19:3 "Zacchaeus 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."
- No amount of money will make me as happy as God intends me to be.
- The only thing that can fill an infinite abyss is an infinite God.
- Luke 19:5 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 quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. Meanwhile, 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!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."
- Generosity is a vehicle for transformation.
- Luke 12:34 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.
- Lack of generosity is rarely due to lack of resources.
- Luke 16:10, 13 "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if
 you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities...
 No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be
 devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to
 money."
- Money is a tool and a test.