**Week 1 – Small Group Guide**

**Luke 19:1-10**

**Ice Breaker 🡪 Who do you want to become?**

* Have people go write down on their hand: What’s one or two words that would describe who you want to become
* Have them go into groups of 2-3 and share
	+ - Their name
		- who they want to become
		- What it’s going to take to get there
* While they are doing this, send around a sign-up sheet, and a camera for them to take pics of their hands
* TL comment 🡪 As part of tonight’s small group, we’ll probably come back to what you have written on your hand and talk about it some more…but before that we are going to look at a section of the Bible together

**Brief Explanation of the Method**

* What is the purpose of Studying the Bible?
	+ Have them throw out their thoughts
	+ TL hones in the ideas to 🡪 TRANSFORMATION
	+ But in order for Transformation to happen we need to be LEARNERS
	+ The first step in being a learner is to start by being CURIOUS…and that is where we are going to begin tonight
* Give them a play by play of what will happen
	+ First we’ll hear the text read out
	+ Then take a few min in personal time to write down what we are curious about
	+ Then we’ll share our questions
	+ Then take some more time in personal time to find clues
	+ More personal time
	+ Finally we’ll discuss the text, by focusing on the questions that we have

**For the TL – How to Break down the Time**

1 min 🡪 read the text

3-4 min 🡪 Personal Time, what are you curious about

2 min 🡪 share questions in two’s

6-7 min 🡪 share questions in LG

6-7 min 🡪 Personal Time

25 min 🡪 Answering questions/interpreting the text

10 min 🡪 Application & Reflection

Total Time needed to Teach 🡪 Around 1 hour

**When leading into Application…**

* Preface your questions or implication time by telling the group that part of our hope as a SG this year is to grow in our understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and what it means to be a witness
* So let’s ask:
	+ How is this good news for us?
	+ And how is this good news for people outside of our group?

**What is the Good News for us in the group?**

-Jesus sees us and initiates us and in spite of how the world sees us and invites us to change.

-Jesus came to seek and save what was lost.

-Jesus initiates with us, he wants to be a part of our lives.

-Jesus sees and meets us where we are, and desires to be in relationship with us.

-Jesus responds to our desire to experience Him.

**What is the Good News for people outside of our group?**

-Same as above

-Jesus pursues relationship with the most unlikely

**Types of Application Questions we could ask:**

* **How is Jesus inviting Himself into our lives? How might that affect who you want to become?**
	+ Application: refer back to the icebreaker, have them reflect on the questions
	+ What are the Choices that you will need to make this year in order to pursue this goal?
	+ How might God affect these Choices?
	+ Share in Two’s
* How can we respond to Jesus’ initiation one way this week? How do you ID with Zacchaeus?
	+ Application: Turn to the person next to you, accountability
* What steps do you need to take in order to pursue Jesus during college?
	+ Application: have them reflect on the question and share in two’s
* Coming into the year, how is Jesus trying to initiate with you? How can you welcome Him in?
	+ Application: Choose an active step to pursue welcoming Him in. (ex. be around community in some way, commit to Small Group, etc…)
* **How can you meet someone where they are at?**
	+ Application: We’re gonna end SG soon, but I want to invite those of you who are willing, to join me in meeting people where they are at.
	+ Jesus took initiative to get into Zacchaeus’ life and meet him where he was at. In the same way, as soon as SG ends, we are going to go and meet folks on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (our floor, house, apt. complex)
	+ And what we are going to do, is much of the same thing that you did in the SG tonight.
		- We’ll talk to them about who they are becoming
		- And we’ll try to learn a little more about how they feel God fits into all of it
	+ I realize that not everyone will be ready to do this, but I want to invite all of us to consider it as a way to apply this text
	+ So let’s pray to close and then in about 5 min, we’ll start back up and I’ll give you directions on what we are going to do

**How to lead the Witness Oriented Application**

**Once you have your group who is ready to apply**

* Affirm them for their willingness to take a risk
* Ask them to share why they stayed behind (take only a couple of min)

**Give instructions**

* Go and meet people by visiting a few rooms or apartments. Introduce yourself, and explain how we are doing an art installation that’s trying to depict who people at UCLA are
* First Step: What’s one or two words that would describe who you want to become? (in 4 years, in life, could be a character trait, could be a profession)
* Second Step: Invite them to write it on their hand and then you will take a picture of it
	+ You can use your camera phone, or if you have a digital camera, use that
* Third Step: Ask them about what they wrote
	+ What Choices do you think you’ll need to make to get there? (listen to their response)
* Fourth Step:
	+ Have you ever considered God in the choices you have made?
	+ Listen, potentially ask about their spiritual background
	+ Based on their response, continue the conversation
* Fifth Step
	+ Invite them to come back to the TL room in two days to see our installation of what people want to become
	+ Consider dropping by their room later in the week to join them in seeing the installation
	+ Find ways to stay connected

**Quick Role Play**

* In two’s practice this with each other
	+ First time…pretend that the person you are speaking to is not a Christian
	+ Switch roles…now pretend that the person you are speaking to is a Christian
	+ We want you to go in these pairs
* Large group
	+ Q& A
	+ How are we feeling about doing this?

**Final Words**

* There is no quota of how many people you need to meet…just go and see what doors God opens. Some of you may spend the whole time with 1 person, others may visit a few diff people
* We don’t expect you to be perfect…you’re bound to say something random or out of place…but just remember, people will only be as awkward as you are
* After tonight’s experience I want us all to take 30 min tomorrow to debrief
	+ Set a time and place for the quick debrief
	+ Explain why having a debrief is important
* Let’s pray

**How to lead the Debrief on the Following Day**

A national leader in training, Dr. Sivasailam Thiagarajan, says, “**People don't learn from experience; they learn from *reflecting* on their experience.”**

**1st Step 🡪 Four questions to ask:**

1. How was that experience for you?
2. Where did you feel stuck or afraid or confused?
3. Where do you think God showed up?
4. What did you learn about yourself? About God? What was God trying to teach you?

**2nd Step 🡪 Share your own experience and what you are learning**

**3rd Step 🡪 Interpretation**

Offer some biblical/spiritual interpretation about how God uses risks like this to transform us and change our hearts. For example:

* Luke 10. We are like the 70 being sent out and learning that we too have spiritual authority.
* John 4. We are learning to thrive and feast on doing the will of God. We are learning to lift up our eyes and see the harvest.
* 1 Corinthians 4:10. We are fools for Christ. We are learning to care more about obeying Jesus than to be controlled by needing people to like or affirm us. We are slowing being transformed and learning to die to being people pleasers.
* 1 Cor 3:6-7. God is in charge of bringing the growth, not us. We are responsible to be faithful. God has to do the rest.
* Jonah 4:1-5. When the results do not please us, we must be careful to entrust our disappointments to God and not resent him for “not coming through” like we expected.