

BRINGING OUT THE DIVINE DESIGN IN OTHERS

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

In other words, Jesus comes to people who have not yet found Father’s divine design for their lives.

- Alan Scott suggested a prayer we should make regularly: ‘Father, would you disrupt my life in a way that leads me towards the lost.’ In what ways does that prayer fit with what Jesus announced in Luke 19:10?

“He wanted to see who Jesus was...” Luke 19:3

- Why would a hard-nosed, cruel oppressor like Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
- Read the following passages and decide if this gives a clue why Zacchaeus might have been interested in seeing Jesus: Matthew 9:10, 11:19; Mark 2:15; Luke 3:12, 5:29, 7:34, and 18:10-13
- How would Zacchaeus have heard news of these things?

Getting the word out — telling stories of what God is doing

At the Alan Scott coaching sessions last week, we made plans for how to release story-telling in our gathered community — with the hope that we also then get better at telling the stories when we are scattered servants. Let’s agree how we can cooperate in this aim.

METHODS

- We agreed to make space for people to tell stories of what God is doing on Sundays and at Connect Groups. How will this connect Group make that space?
- We agreed to encourage others to re-tell their stories at group and on Sundays
- We agreed that it is OK to retell stories — we won’t mind hearing them again

SKILLS

- We will learn how to be clear in what we say — and give people space to learn that skill
- We will tell stories that show how people can copy good practice in engaging with God’s action
- On Sundays we’ll keep it to 2-3 stories (on basis that we are supposed to keep it to 2-3 prophecies too — see 1 Cor. 14:27, 29)

ATTITUDES

- Be brave = do ask, do tell
- Be honouring = let’s give applause

If you knew what God has in mind for you, you would never be jealous of anyone else.

Honour is the choice to magnify another person’s worth above their weakness. It attracts the glory of God. Alan Scott

Compare the crowd with Zacchaeus

- Which was the more soft-hearted? Which the more hard-hearted?
- Did the crowd build a bridge or a barrier? Why?
- Change involves new longings, language and lifestyle. How did that show in Zacchaeus?
- Jesus crossed the picket line to stand with Zacchaeus. He crossed the picket line to stand with us!