

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of November 20 - 26, 2022

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## Main Thought and Scriptures:

The holiday season is a time of joy for many and a struggle for others. Depression, loneliness, and even suicides spike during the holidays. Christians are called to live beyond their walls to make a difference in the lives of others. The problem is that many of us build walls that keep other people out. During Jesus' day, the religious leaders or Pharisees were infamous for being judgmental and self-righteous, scorning people who were not like them. When Jesus reached out to a notorious sinner Zacchaeus, they couldn't understand why He would befriend such a man. If we are not careful, we can become modern Pharisees who build walls between ourselves and the world He has called us to reach.

*"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup>**All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'** <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'" (Luke 19:1-10 NIV)*

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16 NIV)*

Pearlside exists to reach the unreached and to make disciples by planting congregations and churches in every community. To do this, each of us must live beyond our own walls and love and serve people outside the walls of the Church.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon, main thought, and scriptures above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- Share about someone who impacted your life for Christ. What impact did they have on you? How did they love and serve you when you were outside the “walls” of the Church?
- How can you love and serve someone outside the walls of the Church? Who is someone in your life that God is calling you to love and serve? How can you practically love and serve them?

### **Prayer:**

*(break into 2's or 3's to pray)*

- Pray for the person God is calling you to love and serve in this season. Pray for opportunities to serve them and introduce them to Christ.
- Pray for one another for any personal needs in this season.