

## Session 6: Invite Yourself Over

## SESSION GOALS

*Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.*

**Main Idea:** People are worth pursuing and loving. Just as Jesus sought us out, we should seek to share God's love with the people around us.

**Head Change:** To know that God is still seeking those who don't know him.

**Heart Change:** To feel compassion for those who do not know Jesus yet.

**Life Change:** To intentionally get to know people who have not met Jesus so that we can share his love with them.

Each session in *Table Talks* corresponds to a video segment featuring a recipe. Feel free to watch the video as a group, make the recipe together, and use the icebreaker question below to spark conversation while you eat.

**OPEN**

## What is your favorite way to talk with people about Jesus?

Talking about Jesus will be a new practice for some people. The comfort of gathering around

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food and drink is a great way to ease into conversations centered on faith. In today's video, Bianca introduces a familiar Bible character whose life was changed after dinner with Jesus.

## VIEW

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Bianca Juárez Olthoff's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

## What was so scandalous about Jesus's invitation to Zacchaeus?

## What happened to Zacchaeus after he had dinner with Jesus?

Show Session Six: Who Sits at the Table? (6 minutes).

## REVIEW

Bianca began by praising the power of conversation around a table. The chef she met was justified to think she might use their mealtime to talk about Jesus. Consider meals you've shared with friends. **In what ways does the setting of sharing food and drink encourage conversation and intimacy?**

Read Luke 19:1–5. Zacchaeus, a tax collector, was disliked by just about everyone. He was looked down on by the Romans because he was Jewish and ostracized by Jews because he collected taxes for their oppressors. Zacchaeus also charged his neighbors at a higher tax rate, taking the excess to make a nice profit for himself. **What do you think about Zacchaeus—is he someone you would want to be friends with? Why or why not?**

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Zacchaeus was a true person of faith. Galatians 3:7 says, “. . . those who have faith, these are Abraham’s sons.” Zacchaeus’s actions didn’t save him; rather, his faith, made evident through his restitution, did. Bianca said, “Repentance is not just ceasing to sin but to turn away from it and hate it.” **In what ways has Jesus changed you—your actions, thoughts, relationships?**

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Bianca’s last point was that Jesus saves those who seek him. He didn’t write off Zacchaeus, and he won’t write you off. **What does it mean to you that Jesus doesn’t give up on you?**

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Bianca closed by encouraging us not to give up on the lost. Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus’s home, his life, and his future. That meal radically changed lives in Jericho. As Jesus’s disciples, we have the privilege of introducing others to the forgiveness and redemption Jesus offers them. He’s worth it, and they are worth it. **Whom have you given up on? What could it look like to restart a relationship with that person?**

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**BIBLE EXPLORATION**

Zacchaeus’s story is one of faith and transformation. He encountered Christ and came away a different person. His new faith compelled him to do what he could to make right all that he had made wrong while he lived as a sinner. Inspired by Jesus’s forgiveness, he not only returned what he had taken but added four times the amount to each of his victims. With extravagant repentance, he demonstrated the vitality of his new faith.

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In Ephesians 2, we discover from the apostle Paul that Zacchaeus’s transformation demonstrates exactly how our salvation works: we start in disobedience and sin, encounter Christ’s mercy

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If God can save you, he can save the people around you—even the socially awkward, the defiantly disobedient, and the subtly snide ones. Jesus loves them all. Think of at least one person in your circle who has not accepted Jesus. **What is one step you can take to show God's love to them?**

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**Memorize:** Memorize Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost," and Ephesians 2:8, "For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift . . ."

**Host:** Simple sandwiches and finger foods like those Bianca shared in this session’s recipe video, can make casual get-togethers easy to plan. Invite a few friends over, including those still exploring the idea of faith.

**Walk:** Be intentional about getting to know your neighbors, whether that's walking your local sidewalks and talking to them in their yards or using technology to encourage gatherings. Start making friends right where you live and pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus with them.

**Pray:** Commit to praying for two or three people who don't know Jesus. Set regular reminders in your calendar so you don't forget to keep interceding for their salvation.

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