

Luke 18:31-19:27 TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST

When Jesus first set off for Jerusalem, he knew what lay ahead. So why did he deliberately go there? If you've been a Christian for a while you probably know the answer. But we need to keep on stopping to wonder at his love for lost people like us, our family and friends.

1 What is the most precious thing you have lost. How did you feel when you lost it? If you found it, what were your emotions then?

READ LUKE 18:31-34

2a What did Jesus expect to happen in Jerusalem?

b How did he know?

c If someone asked you, "why did he go there then?" how would you answer?

3 What do you think Jesus reminded himself of when he was tempted to turn back?

READ LUKE 18:35-43

4 What does this blind man see about who Jesus is?

5 Why did the crowd try to shut the blind man up?

6 What did Jesus say and do to this man?

READ LUKE 19:1-10

7 Imagine you were Zacchaeus. Describe your emotions through this story.

8a How did Zacchaeus express his repentance and commitment to Jesus?

b How did you express yours when you became a Christian?

9a How does Jesus explain his purpose for coming to earth?

b Think back to previous studies. What sorts of lost people has Jesus brought salvation to?

Exploring God's attitude to the lost (optional, or for further study)

10, Look up these references to 'lost' in the Gospels. What else do these verses tell us about God's attitude to the 'lost'?

Matthew 10:6, 15:24, 18:14;

John 6:39, 17:12, 18:9.

11a Read Ezekiel 34 (suggestion: different people in the group could read a paragraph each). What about the people of Israel showed that they were lost?

b. What will God do about it?

c. How does God keep this promise in the long term?

CONCLUSION

11. Have you decided to follow Jesus, like the blind man and Zacchaeus? Why or why not?

12. How can you better share God's passion for 'the lost'?