

# **Weekly Theme**

**W/C 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016**



**“Accepting one another”**

## **Luke 19:1-10**

*Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. A man was there named Zacchaeus, who was a very important tax collector, and he was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because he was too short to see above the crowd. He ran ahead to a place where Jesus would come, and he climbed a sycamore tree so he could see him. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."*

*Zacchaeus came down quickly and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to complain, "Jesus is staying with a sinner!"*

*But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times more."*

*Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today, because this man also belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."*

Each one of us needs to be loved and accepted by others. A person who isolates themselves from others is a desperately sad figure. In our Gospel story Zacchaeus is alone up his tree and hated by everyone for being a Tax collector. But Jesus notices him. Jesus changes his plans. He didn't intend to stay in Jericho. But something happened that made him change his mind. That something was "Compassion, Mercy and Love".

Zacchaeus had climbed the tree because he was curious to see Jesus. But then Jesus stopped under the tree and told Zacchaeus that he wanted to stay at his house that night. The crowds must have been really shocked at the words of Jesus. The crowds must have been as equally shocked by Zacchaeus's reaction, climbing down the tree he told Jesus that he would give half his possessions to the poor and payback four times over the taxes he had wrongly collected from the people. Jesus cared about him. Zacchaeus would not let the moment pass.

### **Prayer**

Almighty and ever living God  
Increase our faith, hope and love.  
Help us to grow in love and show real concern and care for all those we live and work with.

Amen

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme:

Sometimes we can be with Zacchaeus in the tree isolated and alone, and sometimes we are in the crowd following Jesus. But wherever we find ourselves in life Jesus is always there for us, calling us away from the things that separate us from him. He is calling us to join him in rejoicing over each person who has come into his family. This week we pray for the courage to accept the presence of Jesus in our lives, and the lives of others. Jesus excludes no one and neither should we.

## **Day One**

### **Tutor:**

*Read Scripture*

### **Student Prayer:**

Loving Father, this week help me to be aware of the needs of the people around me.

Amen.

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

## **Day 2**

Think about the society in which we live.

### **Tutor:**

In what ways can our society today isolate people?

### **Student prayer**

Today Father, we pray for all who are lonely and in need of help and support in their lives.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day 3**

Think about the world in which we live.

#### **Tutor:**

So often we hear news reports about people who are isolated and suffering, but do we ever stop to think, how would I feel if I was in their situation? Perhaps now is the time to do just that?

### **Student Prayer**

Dear Lord help me today to “Walk in another person’s shoes” before I make any judgement about them.

Amen .

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day Four**

Think about our college community

#### **Tutor**

Do we isolate people in our college community? Do we judge people simply by the way they look or speak, or by the things that they like?

### **Student Prayer**

God our loving Father, forgive me for the times when I get things wrong.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us.

### **Day Five**

Think about our families

### **Tutor**

Is there somebody in your family who feels lonely? perhaps it's a Grandparent or somebody who lives by themselves. Why not make a promise today to go and see them. What other ways are there in which the members of our family may feel isolated?

### **Student Prayer**

Lord, help me to care today about another person's feelings.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Other Prayers you may wish to use this week**

Father,  
teach us to live good lives,  
encourage us with your support  
and bring us to eternal life.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Jesus, we hear you calling!  
Calling out in the hearts of the needy and poor.  
Calling out in the victims of war and violence.  
Calling out in the hurt of the sick and dying.  
Calling out in the sadness of the lonely and afraid.  
Help us now to answer your call!  
Responding with generosity and compassion.  
Responding with peace and friendship.  
Responding with healing and comfort.  
Responding with openness and courage.  
Jesus, we hear you calling!

Loving God,  
we think we are so busy, so pressurised,  
having so much to do.  
We rush around day after day  
with never a moment to spare.  
Yet so often we forget the one thing we really need –  
to make time and space in our lives to meet with you,  
to hear your voice  
and to look at the world from your perspective.  
Loving God,  
help us to give ourselves to you this day  
so that we may sense your presence,  
walking alongside us.

Amen.

