

Session 10

A surprise invitation

Bible reference

Luke 19:1-10

How does this session help people grow in Christ?

Jesus asking Zacchaeus for an invitation to go to his home proved to be the turning point in Zacchaeus' life. Many people feel that church is not the place for them, but it may be because they haven't been invited or have not experienced unconditional love and hospitality. Messy Vintage is an informal way of 'being church' and is a lovely, touching place to invite people to.

Messy team theme

- Talk about sharing afternoon tea. What makes the occasion special?
- Discuss how you would feel if Jesus announced that he was coming to your home for tea. Which would be your priority – the dust on the shelves or the state of your heart?



Activity

You will need: copies of the afternoon tea cut-outs; medium-weight A4 card; printed inserts (optional); pens; scissors; glue sticks

Fold the A4 sheet in half; cut out the required elements from the afternoon tea cut-out sheet and glue on to the front of the card. Write a message on the inside to a friend giving details of the Messy Vintage event to which you are inviting them, or have pre-printed inserts ready to stick into the cards with space to write the person's name.

Celebration

You might choose one of the following:

Show people a teacup badly stained on the inside. Is it beyond saving or can it be cleaned? While recounting the story of Zacchaeus, soak the cup in a solution of water and steriliser and talk about the seemingly impossible being made possible. Invite people to think about the recipient of their Messy Vintage invitation, emphasising that, even if it seems unlikely to them that the person will accept the invitation, Jesus may well have other ideas!

Prior to the day, invite someone to act out being Zacchaeus. Ask them to run in and interrupt you just as you are about to speak, then excitedly give their testimony.

Song suggestions

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love
 One shall tell another
 Let us build a house where love can dwell (All are welcome)
 Come down, O love divine
 Give me the faith which can remove
 Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake
 A new commandment I give unto you

You're Invited

