

Greater You: Love - Week 3

Key Passages: Luke 19:1–10; Genesis 3:5–7

BELONG

Ice Breaker Question:

David Lovelace shared about some bad gift choices. Have you ever given or received a gift that didn't quite land as intended? Share a funny or awkward story about it.

Leader Notes:

Encourage participants to laugh and share honestly. This light-hearted moment sets the stage for discussing deeper feelings of inadequacy and grace. David related these feelings of giving inadequate gifts to our feelings of inadequacy with God. Let's review some of the lessons he shared.

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud **Luke 19:1–10** and **Genesis 3:5–7**.

1. Trading Inadequacy for Preciousness

Jesus intentionally sought out Zacchaeus despite his social and personal shortcomings. What does this teach us about how God values us, even in our brokenness?

Leader Notes:

Zacchaeus experienced shame because of his occupation and physical stature, but Jesus invited Himself into Zacchaeus's life. This act shows God's unconditional love and His ability to replace our inadequacies with His acceptance.

2. Shame as a Universal Experience

David said, "Shame makes us hide." Genesis 3 describes Adam and Eve's shame after sinning. How does shame manifest in our lives today?

Leader Notes:

Shame can stem from past mistakes, comparison, or internal voices. Social media often magnifies these feelings. However, just as God covered Adam and Eve, He offers us grace and healing through Jesus.

3. Experiencing God's Lavish Love

When the prodigal son returned home, his father celebrated him with joy and unconditional love. How can this story inspire us to receive and reflect God's love in our own lives?



Leader Notes:

David reminded us that grace invites us into the light. God's love transforms shame into confidence in His preciousness. By understanding His lavish love, we can accept ourselves and offer grace to others.

BECOME

David shared 3 practical ways to apply God's love.

1. Daily Reflection on God's Love

What's one thing your life that reminds you how much God loves you?

2. Vulnerability in Community

Confession brings freedom and invites healing. Do you have a trusted friend in your life to share areas of shame or struggle with?

3. Recognizing Preciousness in Others

Look for opportunities to affirm someone who may feel inadequate. Speak words of life and encouragement to remind them of their value in Christ. Think of someone this week who you know needs encouragement.

PRAY

Lord, we come to You with our feelings of inadequacy and shame. Thank You for loving us as we are and trading our brokenness for Your preciousness. Help us to walk in the confidence of Your lavish love and extend that love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

