What does it mean to be a neighbor and to love our neighbors as ourselves? These five Bible Lessons teach us how to be a neighbor and ways to practice the spiritual discipline of hospitality. Jesus calls us to accept those who are different and to treat them as our neighbors also.

LESSON 9
Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he wouldn’t miss seeing Jesus. Jesus recognized Zacchaeus’ enthusiasm and chose to visit him. When we view others as our neighbors, we’re eager to spend time with them.

LESSON 10
The Samaritan woman is skeptical of Jesus until he promises her living water and then she wants to know more. When we view others as neighbors, we’re interested in what they say.

LESSON 11
When the Samaritan man finds an injured traveler along his way, he shows compassion and ensures the man’s care. When we view others as neighbors, we work toward their well-being.

LESSON 12
Jesus tells the Gentile woman he was sent only to the people of Israel. But when she begs Jesus to show mercy to her daughter, he does. When we view others as neighbors, we are generous to them.

LESSON 13
Jesus frees a man from evil spirits and the man is transformed. Jesus sends him out as a missionary. When we view others as neighbors, we accept that their past does not define them.
Jesus Visits Zacchaeus

KEY VERSE: When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” —Luke 19:5 (CEB)

Who’s the Judge?

❖ Think of a time when someone judged you based only on information he or she had heard about you. How did you feel?

❖ When have you judged someone you didn’t know?

❖ Do you think it’s right to judge someone based only on what you’ve heard about the person? Why or why not?

LUKE 19:1-10 (NRSV)

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through it.
2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich.
3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature.
4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.
5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.”
6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.
7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”
8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”
9 Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house,
because he too is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The story of the tax collector Zacchaeus is found only in the Gospel of Luke. As Jesus traveled to Jerusalem, where he would be crucified, Zacchaeus is the last person Luke’s Gospel mentions by name before Jesus entered Jerusalem.

**SENSES AND EMOTIONS**

❖ Read to the Bible verses again and focus on your senses.
  What does it look like: ______________________________
  sound like: ______________________________________
  feel like: _________________________________________
  smell like: _______________________________________
  taste like: _______________________________________

❖ Now put yourself in Zacchaeus’ place. What emotions does he experience? Is he excited, worried, proud, happy?

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

**BREAKING THE TYPE**

● What sort of people do we judge unfairly simply because of the work they do, how they look, or where they live (or lived)?

_______________________________________________________

● What are some examples that defy these stereotypes? (Consider an honest politician or a generous billionaire.)

_______________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________

**SURPRISE GUEST**

● Jesus has invited himself to your house. What do you need to host him? ____________________________________________

_______________________________________________________
Consider the following questions: How long might Jesus’ visit last? How many meals need to be prepared and for how many people? Will Jesus be staying overnight? ________________________________

HAPPY TO HAVE YOU

● What are some ways that indicate a person wants to join a group or activity?

● What are some ways you can welcome that person?

● Are there ever good reasons to turn away someone (not enough seats, parental limit)? How can you make the person feel valued even if she or he can’t join in?