



People Always



BIG IDEA

People Always means we love beyond the walls that divide us. Jesus does not give us the option to love only the people who look like us, agree with us, or are easy to love. As disciples, we are called to lean in, value every person as someone created in the image of God, and love with both grace and truth.



ICE BREAKER

1. Who is someone in your life who made you feel genuinely seen, heard, or valued?
2. When you disagree with someone, is your natural response to lean in or lean away?
3. What makes it difficult to listen to someone whose life experience or beliefs are different from yours?



MAIN POINTS

Jesus leans toward people others push away.

In Luke 19, Zacchaeus was not simply unpopular, he was despised. As a chief tax collector, he had become wealthy by taking advantage of his own people. The crowd saw him as one of “those people,” but Jesus saw a person created and loved by God. Jesus called Zacchaeus by name, moved toward him, and entered into relationship with him.

Shan reminded us that Scripture never gives us permission to choose who we love. Jesus repeatedly moved toward people others avoided—the outcast, the broken, and the people labeled as sinners. When we stop seeing the world as “us” and “them,” we begin to see people who, just like us, need a Savior.

Every person carries the image of God. Our value does not come from our behavior, beliefs, background, or whether someone agrees with us. We can disagree without devaluing.

Shan challenged us to examine what happens when disagreement turns someone into an enemy. When we stop listening and begin labeling, walls quickly go up. Disciples of Jesus choose another way: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

The question becomes: *How would Jesus love this person?*

One of the lessons Shan shared was, “Don’t fight for agreement; fight for understanding.” Agreement focuses on proving who is right. Understanding begins with curiosity, listening, and compassion.

Jesus did not require Zacchaeus to have everything figured out before He approached him. He entered his world first. You do not have to agree with or approve of everything in another person’s life in order to listen, understand their story, and treat them with kindness.

John tells us Jesus came full of grace and truth. He did not choose one at the expense of the other.

Jesus showed Zacchaeus grace by moving toward him, sharing a meal, and treating him with dignity. But His presence also brought truth, and Zacchaeus’ life changed. He

	willingly confronted his greed and made restitution to those he had harmed. Grace without truth can become “anything goes.” Truth without grace can become harsh and push people away. Jesus modeled 100% grace and 100% truth. Shan’s story about Jesse showed what this can look like over time. The church did not begin by trying to fix someone. They began with relationship, listening, dignity, prayer, and an invitation to follow Jesus. No story of transformation begins with rejection.
 DISCUSS	1. What stood out to you most about the way Jesus approached Zacchaeus? 2. Shan asked, “What grade would you give yourself when it comes to loving people who are different from you?” What makes you answer that way? 3. Which is more natural for you, grace or truth? How could you grow in the other?
 NEXT STEP	Jesus First — Love the Way Jesus Loves Read Luke 19:1–10 this week and pay attention to Jesus’ posture toward Zacchaeus. Ask: “Jesus, who am I tempted to avoid, label, or keep at a distance? Help me see them the way You do.” Remember, if Jesus is First, He does not simply get a vote on how we treat people—He gets the final word. People Always — Learn Someone’s Story Choose one person who is different from you and practice curiosity instead of assumption. Invite them to coffee, have a conversation, or simply ask: “What’s your story?” “Tell me more.” Listen without trying to win an argument. Look for the image of God in the person sitting across from you. Made for More — Build a Bridge Look for one practical opportunity to replace a wall with a bridge. Encourage someone, invite them to church or Group, extend forgiveness, include someone who feels left out, or begin repairing a strained relationship. We can be a generation known not for turning hate into an asset, but for making the love of Jesus our greatest asset.
 SCRIPTURE	Luke 19:1–10, Luke 9:23, John 1:14
 NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next weekend as we continue The Life You’re Chasing and discover how living Jesus First, People Always, and Made for More changes the way we live every day.