



# Living THE Mission

**WEEK 5 / MARCH 7, 2017**

## ★ DEVOTIONAL ★

### READ LUKE 19:1-10

What does a “model Christian” look like? How much does she read her Bible? Where does he volunteer? What movies does she avoid watching, what music does he not listen to, and, most importantly, what authors does this model Christian read?

During the time of Jesus, there were many people writing about how to be a “good Jew.” A good Jew was an insider, and these insiders were not supposed to interact with outsiders. You could be inside because you ate the right things, you were generous, or you followed the right rules; you could be outside because of disease, disability, or who your parents were. And, if you were on the inside, for you to stay on the inside, you needed to stay away from those on the outside! While these rules were meant to help people follow God, they ended up excluding people, and many ended up as outsiders. But, these rules shouldn't feel too unfamiliar, because they simply put into words a typical human behavior: I like people who are similar to me, and I don't like people who are different from me.

Jesus was different, though. Even though he could have been an insider, he kept running to the outside. Over and over, he was found with the type of person others called sinners. As Jesus says in Luke 19:10, “The son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” And, as if being with outsiders wasn't enough, Jesus called his followers to do the same.

But, even though Jesus calls us to follow him, it isn't easy. It's hard to spend time with people who feel different. Whether it is different interests, different appearances, different styles of speaking, different cultures, or any number of other things, it can be terrifying to imagine following Jesus to the outside. But, when Jesus ran to the outside, the inside-outside game was changed forever! And this is good news to the people of PazNaz, who could never have been on the inside by their own righteousness.

## ★ ACTIVITY ★

- Think of the phrase “model Christian.” What characteristics come to mind when you imagine that? Write down any tendencies, beliefs, lifestyle choices, friends, or appearances that this person should fit to be a model Christian. Once you have created this model, think about yourself. Think about the ways you don't fit this description, and what would disqualify you from being an insider. Then, pray a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for running to the outside to be with you.
- Draw a circle. Identify some of those people groups who are generally considered “insiders” in the Christian world, and write them on the inside. Now, write some people groups around the outside of the circle that would generally be considered “outsiders.” Pick 3 of those on the outside, and commit to pray for them every day this week.
- Invite someone into your home who has never been there before. It can be to share a meal, to talk, or to watch a movie together, but practice showing hospitality by inviting someone into your personal space.