



# IT'S PERSONAL

Do you know...?

## Session 3: Do You Know Where I Live?

October 6 - 12, 2019

### Hang Out (30 Minutes)

1. You can use the book [The Complete Book of Questions](#) to continue getting to know each other. Have a group member pick a number between 1 and 100, look up the question for that number and encourage everyone to answer. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
2. Briefly list in order every town where you have lived.
3. What is one of your favorite places you have lived? Explain why?

### Watch The Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

### Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. Think of where you live now (your house inside, house outside, street, neighborhood, city, etc.). What impressions of you do you think people would gain from seeing where you live now?
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? It might be helpful to briefly recap the sermon.
3. Help each other to look up Luke 19:1-10. After everyone has found the passage, have someone read it.
  - Given what you know about how people would have thought of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector, describe what you think were Zacchaeus' emotions when Jesus said, "I must stay at your house today."
  - Some underreported time elapsed from Zacchaeus in the tree (v.5) and Zacchaeus' grand announcement in verse 8. Luke reports very little of what happened or what was said during this time. What do you think happened during this underreported time? If you were Zacchaeus, what would you hope would happen?
4. Help each other to look up Matthew 9:9-13. After everyone has found the passage, have someone read it.
  - What does this account add to your understanding of how Jesus answered the question, "Do you know where I live?" for tax collectors and sinners?
  - Read again verses 11-13 carefully. What do you think Jesus is teaching in his response to the Pharisees? Who is Jesus calling "sick" or "healthy"? What meaning is Jesus giving to what God spoke through the prophet Hosea, "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice." (Hosea 6:6)? What does Jesus' response to the Pharisees teach about taking time to understand someone's everyday context?

- This is another example of Jesus “boarding their train” when he made it personal with tax collector Matthew and his sinning friends. When seeking to connect with people with whom you disagree or have little in common, what challenges do you experience in “boarding their train”?
5. Help each other to look up Hebrews 4:14-16. The writer of Hebrews frequently makes use of the Old Testament and Jewish worship practices to help the reader understand who Jesus is and what he accomplished for us. In this passage, Jesus is compared to the Jewish High Priest. After everyone has found the passage, have someone read it from the New International Version.
    - It can be hard to understand verse 15. Think about what this verse is teaching. You know how you have been tempted. Do think Jesus was really *tempted in every way, just like we are*?
    - How does verse 15 enhance your understanding of Jesus?
    - Since we believe that Jesus is fully God, how does verse 15 help you to better understand that God knows where you live (your everyday context)?
  6. What do you think it takes to really understand someone’s everyday context?
  7. Give a brief testimony of either when someone took the time to understand your everyday context or when you took the time to understand someone’s everyday context. Describe how this changed your relationship.

## SUMMARY

Something changes in a relationship when you take the time to understand someone’s everyday context. In Jesus, God became fully human and entered our everyday context. We have confidence that God fully understands what we experience. If we are really honest, we would probably admit that we sometimes assume that a person should *feel like I feel, think like I think, and believe like I believe*. When Jesus went to homes of Zacchaeus and Matthew, Jesus modeled empathy. You can’t force your way into someone’s heart, but you can invite yourself into someone’s world. To understand someone’s everyday context, you can “board their train” and ride through the landscape of that person’s life. When you enter someone’s world, you must respect their personality, timeline, and boundaries. You can learn someone’s context by understanding where they live physically, socially, digitally, culturally, emotionally and spiritually. Next Step: Learn how to better understand someone’s everyday context and begin to practice being empathically curious. This week learn something about someone’s everyday context.

## Pray (5 Minutes)

Think of something about yourself that you are thankful that God understands and yet continues to love and accept you just as you are. To close in prayer, go around the circle and have each person complete this sentence, **“God, I thank you that you understand that I (state something about yourself that you are thankful God understands). Thank you Jesus.”**

- The life group host begins and ends the time of prayer and can use this prayer if desired: **“Gracious God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You understand where we live every day. Hear us now as we thank you for knowing, loving, and accepting us.”**
- Have the prayer go around the circle with each person who wishes to pray speaking their prayer out loud.
- After the prayer has moved back to the leader, the leader can conclude with his/her prayer for someone and then say, **“You know us Lord, and we love you. Amen.”**