



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 6: Sinners

Suggested Week of Use: April 11, 2021

Core Passage: Luke 19:1-10

News Story Summary

Pastor Shane Parrott's wife asked him what possessed him to install a 16-foot wooden cross on their front lawn. His response was, "I don't know." A church member then called and said he had some wood, and he would like to make crosses and see what happens. This led to 2,700 six-foot crosses within weeks. As people came to get the crosses, the gospel was shared with each person, asking if they had a personal relationship with Jesus. By the end of 2020, the church had baptized 168 people and the church had rebounded in attendance to pre-pandemic levels.

For more about this story, search "Shane Parrott builds cross".

Focus Attention

To replace the Begin idea under Focus Attention, share the story of Shane Parrott and the cross give away. Lead the group to propose why people might desire a six-foot cross to display if they were not already believers. Highlight any responses that relate to people being drawn to the cross and to Jesus as it did in Pastor Parrott's community. Transition into the familiar story of Zacchaeus. Say: *He was a desperate man, despised by his community, who could not wait to meet Jesus.* Challenge the group to be looking for why Zacchaeus desired to meet Jesus.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Respond idea under Summarize and Challenge, remind the group of the Heritage Baptist Church cross give away. Ask: *How was Zacchaeus's response to Jesus different than those who met Jesus at the cross give away? How is it similar?* Call attention to the second question set under Apply the Text (Who in your life do you consider to be least likely to come to faith in Jesus Christ? How can you begin to pray and take action to introduce them to Jesus?) Challenge the group to consider ways they can share the gospel with the people they listed in response to the questions. Complete the step as written.