



## It's Personal: wk4 The Power of Acceptance

Often a hindrance to being involved personally with someone is the fear of seeming approving of sin. Yet if we don't interact with those who are far from Christ, we are unable to be on the mission that He gave us. What if Jesus' acceptance of Zacchaeus gives us an example on how acceptance paves the way to repentance?

### Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to give a reference for someone? Are you someone who gives glowing references or are you cautious? Explain both sides of that
2. Have you ever been afraid to speak with someone or share a meal with them because you were concerned about what someone else might think? What's the downside to spending time with people who don't share your faith? What's the downside to NOT spending time with those same people? How do we navigate that?
3. What is the difference between guilt and shame?
4. **Read John 8:1-11** Compare what we know about Jesus' experience with both this woman and Zacchaeus. What similarities are there?
5. **Read Romans 8:1** How do condemnation and shame work together? How does accepting someone differ from approval? What does acceptance do to shame?
6. Is acceptance necessary to facilitate change in someone's life? Has anyone ever spoken something over you that you didn't see for yourself (maybe a teacher who made a suggestion about your future)?
7. Who (maybe don't name names) is someone that is hard for you to accept? What would it look like to accept them for you?

**Shaping Your Mind** *Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*

**Moving Forward** – *"Every person needs to know they are more than the sum of their worst moments."* –It's Personal