

You Belong Here

Luke 19:1-10

September 13, 2026

Vitality

DAY 1: SEEN BY NAME

READING: LUKE 19:1-10

Zacchaeus was surrounded by a crowd and still completely alone. His wealth could not buy him belonging, and his position could not earn him acceptance. Yet Jesus stopped, looked up, and called him by name—not by his reputation or failures. Jesus did not wait for Zacchaeus to clean up his life before extending an invitation. He called him down first. Whatever has made you feel unseen today, know this: Jesus sees past the crowd, past your history, and straight to you.

Personal Reflection: Where have you felt unseen or overlooked? How does it change things to know that Jesus calls you by name?

Practical Application: Write down three things you fear might disqualify you from being welcomed by Jesus. Over them, write the words: called by name. Keep this as a reminder that you are known and invited.

DAY 2: THE GOD WHO COMES LOOKING

READING: LUKE 15:1-32

Three stories. One message. God does not sit still when something precious is lost. The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine. The woman searches her house. The father runs down the road. In each story, the search is intentional and the celebration is extravagant. God does not simply wait for us to find our way back to Him. He comes looking. Jesus entered the mess of humanity and walked toward the cross so that the lost could be found.

Personal Reflection: Which of the three stories in Luke 15 resonates most with where you are right now? What does it reveal about God's heart toward you?

Practical Application: Think of one person who feels far from God or community. Choose one intentional way this week to remind them that they are seen and not forgotten.

DAY 3: WHEN THE CROWD GETS IN THE WAY

READING: MARK 2:1-12

Four friends carried a paralyzed man to Jesus, only to find the doorway blocked by a crowd. Instead of turning back, they climbed to the roof and opened a way through. They refused to let the crowd become the final word on whether their friend could reach Jesus. Churches can become crowds too. Traditions, habits, and insider culture can quietly make it difficult for someone who is still searching. The question is not only whether you have faith, but whether your faith is making room for others to get closer to Jesus.

Personal Reflection: Have you ever felt like the crowd was in your way spiritually? Could you ever be part of the crowd making it harder for someone else?

Practical Application: Think about the spaces and conversations you are part of. Identify one practical way you can make room for someone who is still exploring faith.

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DAY 4: BELONGING BEFORE BELIEVING

READING: JOHN 4:1-26

Jesus sat at a well and began a conversation with a woman many others would have avoided. She was a Samaritan with a complicated history, yet Jesus engaged her questions honestly and gave her room to process. He did not demand that she have everything figured out before speaking with her. She belonged in the conversation before she fully understood who Jesus was. Belonging and believing are not opposites. Often, belonging is part of how believing begins.

Personal Reflection: When has someone given you space to ask hard questions without pressure? Who in your life might need that same kind of space?

Practical Application: The next time someone raises a doubt or difficult question about faith, resist the urge to immediately answer. Ask a thoughtful question instead and create room for the conversation to continue.

DAY 5: SALT, LIGHT, AND THE TOWN YOU CALL HOME

READING: MATTHEW 5:13-16 AND JEREMIAH 29:4-7

God told His people in exile to build, plant, and seek the welfare of the city where He had placed them. Jesus later described His followers as salt and light. Neither salt nor light works from a distance; both require presence. Your town, neighbourhood, and community are places where your faith is meant to have a visible impact. There are people nearby who need to be seen, welcomed, and pointed toward Jesus—and God can use you as part of that work.

Personal Reflection: What would it look like for your faith to make a tangible difference in the place where you live? Who around you may feel overlooked or excluded?

Practical Application: Spend ten minutes praying specifically for your town or neighbourhood. Ask God to show you one person or one need you can respond to, then take one step toward it this week.