

# Youth Reflections: Easter



**Let's think about Easter this school holidays.**

**Date:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Big Idea:** Jesus wants a relationship with us.

**Key Verse:** *"My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."* | Psalm 27:8 (NLT)

**Bible passage:** Luke 19:1-10

**You will need:**

- Your Bible
- Journal or blank paper
- Pens/Pencils/Highlighters
- A snack and/or drink

**How?**

1. Watch this video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLB5r2P47beqJmdfpmBamsYfd58QWQ0Y\\_V&v=IGV5IU6O4B4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLB5r2P47beqJmdfpmBamsYfd58QWQ0Y_V&v=IGV5IU6O4B4)

2. Work your way through the questions to come.

You can answer these questions by writing them down, discussing them with a friend or family member, reflecting on them to yourself...there are no rules about how you engage with this content!

**REFLECT ON THE FOLLOWING:**

- If you could hang out with Jesus for a day, what would you do?
  - Would you play video games? Bake cookies? Which sport would you play with him? What would he want to eat? What would it be like to take him to the shops?
- Why would you choose these activities?

Isn't it cool that Jesus is always there with us doing these things and that he loves being with us?!

## LET'S READ THE BIBLE

It's important to note that that the "notorious sinners" mentioned in the video aren't "super-cool sinners." These people are shunned and hated by society. No one wants to be around them because they appear to be so horrible and "gross".

- Look up and read Luke 19:1-10 in your Bible.
- Now look up the same passage in the NTL translation of the Bible (you may have to use the internet)
  - o We're told that Zacchaeus was a "notorious sinner" in verse 7.  
'Notorious' means 'famous or well known, typically for some bad quality or deed. Another word for notorious is infamous or dishonourable.
- Who's someone in the media spotlight that we may also call this? Why?
- Consider your school. Who may be considered the "notorious sinners" in your school?
  - o Would you hang out with them? Why or why not?
- How does whom you hang out with affect your reputation?
- How do you think it affected Jesus' reputation?
- If you lined up everyone in your school, from the most popular to the least popular, where would you place the various groups or kinds of people?
  - o Why?
  - o Where would you place yourself?

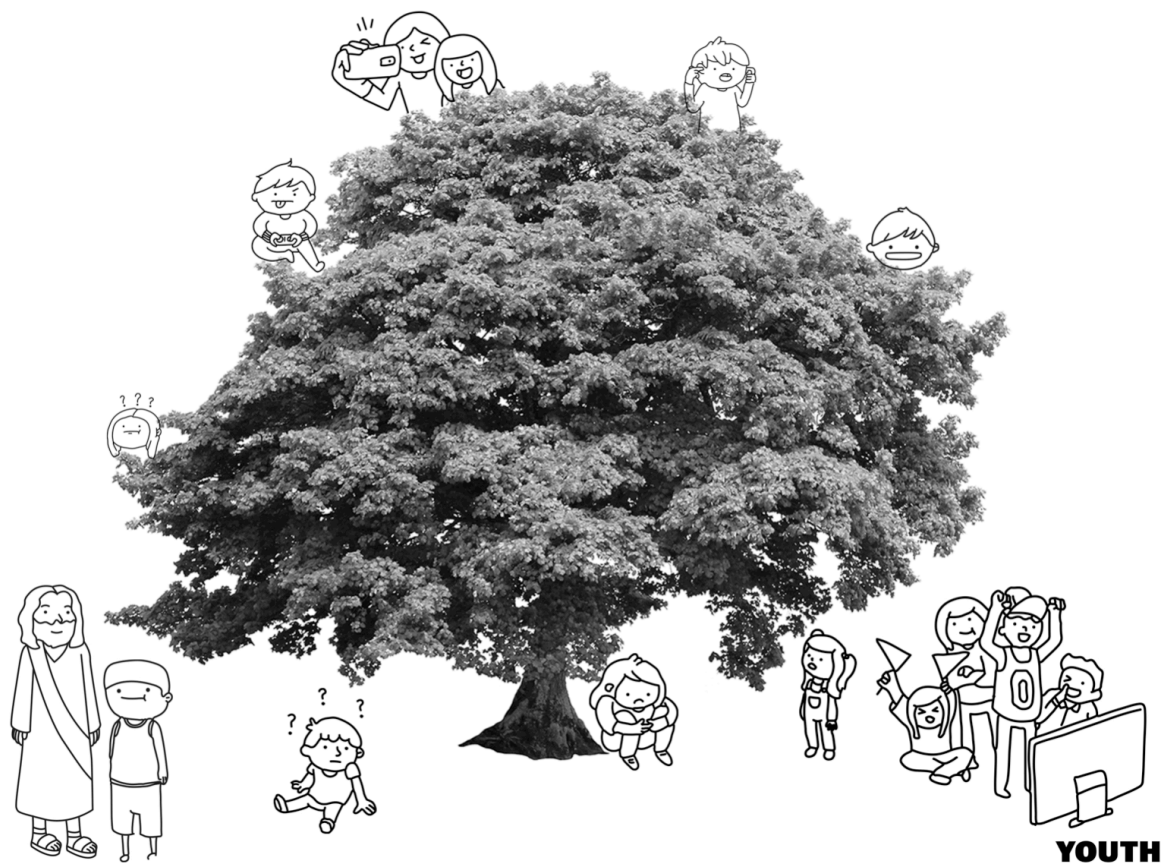
Jesus doesn't care what you've done. He wants a relationship with everyone, including you! There's no work for you to do. It doesn't matter what your status or social standing is—Jesus wants a relationship with you.

- What would it be like if you saw "notorious sinners" as Jesus sees them?
  - o What would this look like?
  - o Would you change how you respond to them? Why or why not?

## ACTIVITY

Zacchaeus needed to come down from the tree. Imagine you're up in a tree, just like Zacchaeus. Jesus invites you to come down and form a relationship with him.

- Is there something stopping you?
  - o Is there a distraction or a question?
  - o Have you come down from the tree, but then got distracted?
  - o Are you too afraid of what it may mean or what he wants to say to you?
  - o Are you already standing beside him?
- Have a go at drawing this tree in your journal or on a piece of paper - add colour!
  - o Look at the picture below and consider who are in it.
  - o Which one are you? Why?



- Look up and read Psalm 27:8 in your Bible.
  - o How does this passage make you feel?
  - o Why do you think that is?

## **PRAY!**

- Spend some time praying to God and bringing your thoughts before Him.
  - You may like to write God a prayer letter, draw a mind map or picture, go for a prayer walk, listen to some worship music, or even pray silently to yourself.  
God hears us when we talk to him!
- Spend some time listening to His response and have a go at writing down what you think he may be saying.