



FULLY ALIVE

JANUARY 12-14, 2019



Engaging Others

A Message From Executive Pastor Sean Cooper

Read about Pastor Sean at northlandchurch.net/seancooper.

From the very beginning, God is the initiator. From Genesis to Revelation, there are countless stories of the way He moves toward people. The Gospels give us incredible scenes of Jesus continuing that expression of God's love. As Christ moved about His day, He engaged the people around Him.

As image-bearers of our Creator,
what can we learn from Jesus
about engaging others?



Zacchaeus, by Niels Larsen Stevns (1913)

UPCOMING SERVICES

- » **January 19-21** | Fully Alive: What Does It Look Like? | John 10:10 | Pastor Matt Heard
- » **January 26-28** | Fully Alive: What It Means for Us as a Church | Pastor Matt Heard

Initiates

This week we're learning about how God reaches out to, loves and initiates relationships with us.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NorthlandChurch.net/Studies

Afterward have someone read the discussion questions in the "Hear God's Story" section and start the conversation.



Share Your Story

Begin by praying together. This should be a brief, simple prayer in which you invite God to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of your time together or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.

Then begin your time together by discussing the following questions.

- When has someone pursued you for an activity or relationship?
- What makes you want to pursue people for relationships or activities?

Hear God's Story, and Create a New Story

READ LUKE 19:1-10 (NIV) & LUKE 19:10 (NIV)

- Who initiated the relationship between Jesus and Zacchaeus?
- According to the Luke passage, what's one of the reasons that Jesus came to earth?
- How did Zacchaeus respond to the realization that he was found and known by Jesus? How does being known by God change him?
- How are you responding to the knowledge that Jesus Christ, the resurrected Savior and the Son of God, has sought you out?
- What are some of the invitations God is making in your life? How can you respond to His calls?
- How did the people seeing this exchange respond? What are some of the reasons they might have muttered?
- How can you be a source of encouragement rather than a source of muttering in the lives of some sinners you see Jesus redeeming?
- How can your group or community prepare for and receive the lost whom Jesus has restored into the family of God?

Give each person an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Find Your Story in God's Story

If you feel God is nudging you to go deeper, take some time between now and our next discussion to dig into His Word. Explore the Bible passages related to this session's theme on your own, jotting your reflections in a journal or in this study guide. Want to go deeper? Select a few verses, and try paraphrasing them, writing them in your own words. If you'd like, share them with the group the next time you meet.

When it comes to relationships, most of the time we look for people we're well matched with – maybe because of mutual interests or complementary giftings – and pursue those people. But instead, Jesus, time and time again, pursued the lost, broken and even the dead. He approached people who, instead of having something to offer, came with a price. Jesus was willing to pay the fullness of that price through dying on the cross so that we could all be found and made whole again. What a good thing He did, because without His initiation we'd still be lost and broken, dead to our sin!

READ ROMANS 5:6-8 (NLT)

- When did Jesus initiate relationships with people? When did He initiate a relationship with you?
- What would've happened if Jesus had waited for you to be good enough for Him before pursuing you?
- If we're to love like Jesus, who are some undeserving people who need your love?

READ JOHN 9:18-25 (NLT)

- How did the blind man know Jesus was, in fact, from God?
- Where have you had your proverbial sight restored through the work of God? Who needs to hear that testimony of restoration and redemption?

This week's study is also available on Northland's apps or at NorthlandChurch.net/Studies.

What's Current

Get info and sign up at NorthlandChurch.net, or ask a connection team member for assistance.

Baby Rocker Orientation

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16 | 2:30-3:30 P.M. | THE HUB | northlandchurch.net/babyrockers

Winter/Spring Connections Weekend

JANUARY 19-21 | BEFORE & AFTER SERVICES | THE FOYER | northlandchurch.net/connections

LUG Connect

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 | 6:30-8:30 P.M. | CHILDREN'S WORSHIP WING | northlandchurch.net/lugconnect

Start Here! Bible Study

SUNDAYS STARTING JANUARY 27 | 10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M. | ROOM 4216 | northlandchurch.net/startheresunday

WEDNESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 30 | 6:30-8 P.M. | ROOM 4218 | northlandchurch.net/startherewednesday

Marriage 911

WEDNESDAYS STARTING JANUARY 30 | 7-9 P.M. | ROOMS 4206-7 | northlandchurch.net/marriage911

 Update your profile picture on Facebook with a new Fully Alive picture frame from Northland Church.

Financially Partnering with Northland

We ended 2018 with \$9,695,409 in tithes and offerings which was \$243,264 less than we actually spent during 2018. In preparation for 2019 we have made a number of budgetary changes designed to enable us to maintain a balanced budget. Over the coming weeks we will move to a chart style weekly update on tithes and offerings versus need and goals, as well as a monthly mortgage balance report. We ended 2019 with a remaining mortgage balance of \$10,137,641.

For more information, you can go to NorthlandChurch.net/Give or check out the latest issue of "Respond." *Thank you!*

"Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything."

— 1 Peter 4:9-11 (MSG)

Ways to Give

Give by cash or check and drop it in the tithe box.



Give online at NorthlandChurch.net/Give or use the Northland App.



Give via mobile text. Text "northland" followed by the amount to 77977 (e.g. northland 10).



Questions? Contact our Finance Team at financeteam@northlandchurch.net