



Vision and Commitment 2018  
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in  
everything  
&  
everywhere

## Discipleship Series Interactive Worship - Opening Up (Including)

### Preparation

- Optical illusion pictures projected or printed (Appendix 1).
- Different kinds of shoes (in various styles, colours and sizes).
- Sheets of A4 paper and pens.

### Bible Passage

Luke 19:1-10

### Introduction

Show the optical illusion pictures (Appendix 1). What can people see? Invite people to try to see what others are seeing. Sometimes it is good to look at things from a different perspective.

### Thought

Jesus was on the road to Jerusalem, walking to the Passover festival where he would be arrested and killed. He had been warning his disciples about what was to come (Luke 18:31–34) and must have approached Jericho with lots of mixed emotions as it was the last town before reaching Jerusalem. With all that on his mind he could have been forgiven for missing a little man sitting in a tree.

Often we look at the story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) from his point of view – looking down. But let's look up. Let's just look at Jesus.

#### *Jesus saw Zacchaeus*

Many people today feel they are invisible, that nobody cares. We are sometimes blinded by our own prejudices. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a person who worked with the Roman authorities. Added to that, it is implied by his wealth that he was dishonest too. Others ignored him. Jesus noticed him.

#### *Jesus called him*

As Christians we can sometimes have a 'them and us attitude' as if God only speaks inside the Church but not outside it. Zacchaeus shows us that no one is outside the Lord's love and care, and he calls and uses people outside the Church as well as inside.

#### *Jesus totally accepted him*

Jesus did not say 'If you change your ways I will come to your house.' He said 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today' (v 5). The invitation was one of





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total acceptance, and *because* of that love and acceptance Zacchaeus realised how differently he needed to live. Not only did he change but his whole family changed too.

Many people feel that Christians are going to judge them and make them feel worse than they are already feeling. We need to start looking at people from a different perspective – God's perspective.

## Participation

Ask for a number of people to come to the front and take their shoes off. Ask them to choose a pair of shoes which aren't theirs and to find the owner of the shoes. See if they can walk in the person's shoes. How does it feel?

Before the shoes are exchanged ask them the following questions to understand a bit better how it is to truly walk in their shoes:

- What was the most difficult moment in your life?
- What was the best moment in your life?
- What was the most embarrassing moment in your life?

There is a proverb from the Cherokee tribe of Native Americans that warns: 'Don't judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes.'

## Worship

- SB 1005 Brother, sister let me serve you
- SB 1013 When I needed a neighbour
- SB 999 Every moment
- SB 418 People need the Lord

## Response

Give everyone a piece of paper and ask them to draw around their feet/shoes. In the footprints write prayers of confession for the way in which we judge, and prayers of renewal for a clearer vision to 'see' others and include them as Jesus would want us to as his disciples.

To conclude this moment, use the words of the song 'There are people hurting in the world today' (SB 935) to read over some instrumental music or ask a musical group from the corps to sing/play it.

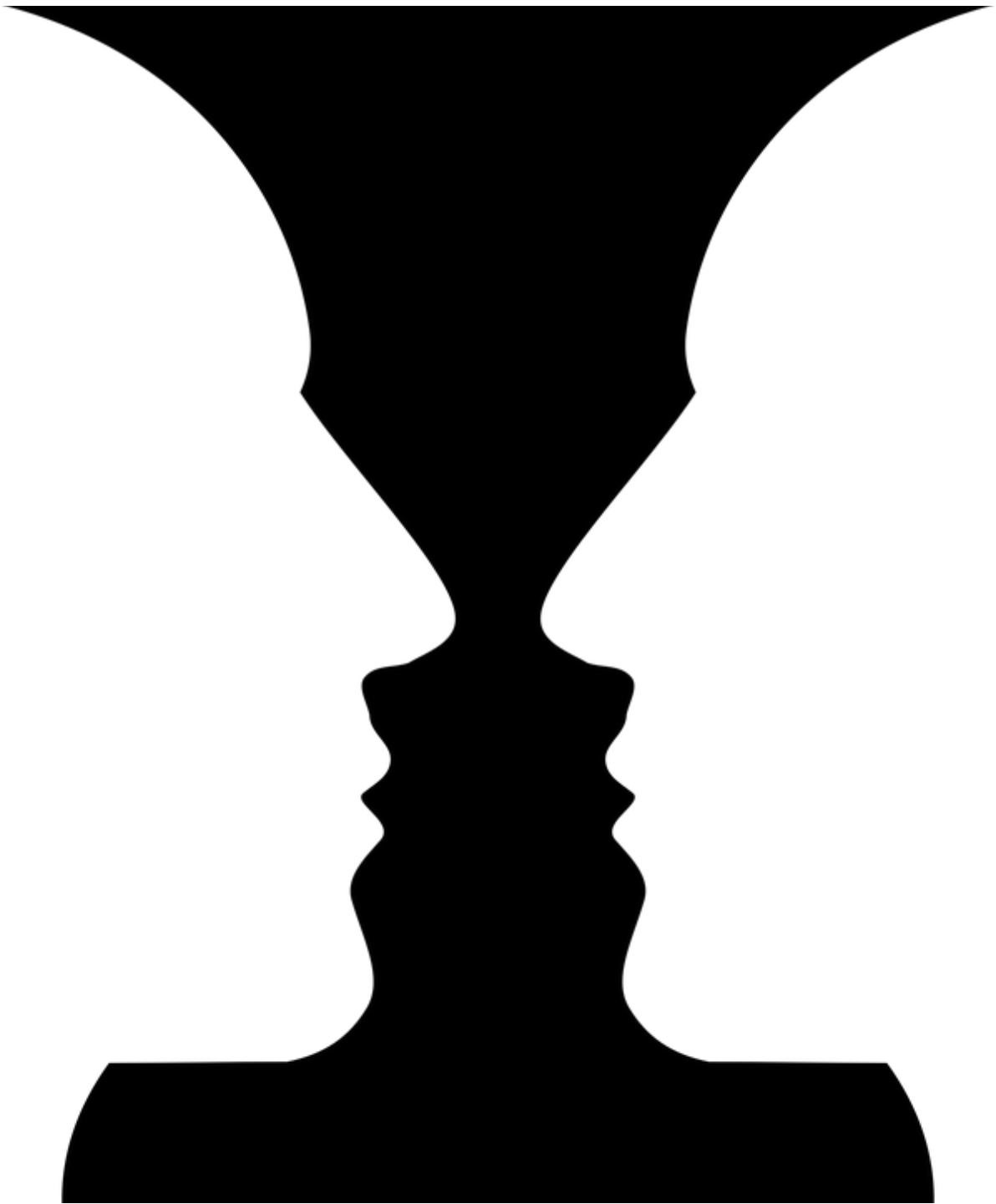




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## Appendix 1





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