**LIVING AT THE END OF AN AGE**

**Persistence Pays**

*Luke 18:27-30, 35–43; 19:1–10*

* Talk about the three stories in the passage above—rich young ruler, blind man near Jericho, and Zacchaeus—why did Luke set these stories together?
* How are the ruler and the blind man contrasted (want vs. need)?
* How are the ruler and Zacchaeus compared on God doing the impossible with rich people? Why did Jesus accept less from Zacchaeus than he demanded from the rich ruler?
* Why does Jesus say is it hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven? Why do the disciples find this discouraging?
* Why might it be more difficult for us to get into the kingdom than a person living in a village in Burkina Faso or Nigeria?
* Why does God want us to sometimes be impolite and obnoxious like the blind man? Why does God think manners are overrated? What do manners represent in our behavior (fear of being thought of poorly, etc.?)
* In the Zacchaeus story, how does God respond to our willingness to step out of our comfort zone? Have you experienced that?