

INTRODUCTION

Overview

As a church, we have been going through the gospel of Luke for the last few years (and we will continue in the upcoming years). We have now come to chapter 9, which centres around interactions between Jesus and his 12 disciples.

Through this chapter, Jesus will challenge our views on his identity and mission as the suffering Messiah. He will also redefine significantly what it truly means for us to follow him, which includes following him into his suffering.

How to use these studies

These studies have been written in the COMA (context, observation, meaning, application) method, which we have been using for quite some time. However, if you would like to mix it up, you are welcome to use different methods. These are included in the appendix and we have found them really helpful. Leaders should feel free to use a different method each week - whatever is most beneficial for your life group.

STUDY 1

LUKE 9:1-17

Introduction

In the earlier chapters, Luke has detailed:

- the foretelling and birth of Jesus
- the temptations that prepared Jesus for his ministry
- Jesus' ministry of the 'kingdom of God'
- the calling of the first disciples
- the teaching and healing of many in Israel.

Chapter 9 is notable because it represents Jesus' final teachings and other events in Galilee prior to his journey towards Jerusalem.

Context

1. Think about what the disciples had experienced with Jesus so far in Luke's gospel. What do you think they believed about Jesus at this point?

Observation

2. Notice what Jesus called the disciples to do (verses 1-6). What stands out to you or surprises you about these instructions?

3. How might the miracle (verses 12-17) encourage the apostles amidst the difficulties of their calling?

Meaning

4. What was the purpose of Jesus asking his disciples to continue the work he had been already doing?

5. To what extent are Jesus' instructions (verses 3-5) relevant for us today? Consider his instructions in Matthew 28:19-20 and Luke 22:35-38.

Application

6. How is this passage instructive for how we evangelise today? Share your own experiences.

Observation

3. What could challenge or confirm the disciples' understanding of Christ as the Messiah (verses 21-22)?

4. What stands out to you or challenges you about following Jesus (verses 23-27)?

Meaning

5. How should Jesus' life and mission shape ours (verses 23-27)?

Application

6. Share how denying yourself, taking up your cross daily and following Jesus may look like in your own life.

STUDY 3

LUKE 9:28-36

Context

The 'sayings' (verse 28) most likely refer to the exchange between Jesus and his disciples (verses 18-20) when Jesus challenged them on who they thought he really was. Some thought he was Elijah or 'a prophet of old' like Moses. Others, like Peter, believed he was the Christ. This passage will undeniably show who Jesus really is.

1. If you could meet any two historical figures (alive or dead), who would they be and what would you talk to them about?

Observation

2. Imagine you were there with Peter, John and James to witness this event. How would you feel and what would you do?
3. What did Peter's suggestion about setting up three tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah (verses 33) say about what he believed about Jesus?

Meaning

4. Of all the great figures that Jesus could have talked to, why do you think he was shown talking to Elijah and Moses on a mountain? See Exodus 24:12-18 and 1 Kings 19:11-13.
5. What did 'departure' (verse 31) refer to? What might it indicate about Jesus' identity and mission?
6. Of all the things that could have been said, why do you think the voice from heaven (verse 35) specifically commanded "listen to him"?

Application

7. Based on what we have discussed, what are some ways you could highlight the uniqueness of Jesus compared to other religions' perspectives?
8. Share one situation where it is critical for you to be saturated in Jesus' words and listen to his voice.

STUDY 4

LUKE 9:37-50

Context

Right after Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, he freed a man's son from a demonic possession when his disciples failed to do so. A series of exchanges then took place between Jesus and the disciples, which anticipated his impending future and their response to it.

1. What might be the reason for the disciples to argue about who was the greatest (verse 46)?

Observation

2. Why did Jesus often use children as examples of humility when teaching his disciples about true greatness in the kingdom of God (verses 47-48)?
3. What were the disciples' concerns about an 'outsider' casting out demons in Jesus' name?

Meaning

4. Who was Jesus referring to as 'faithless and twisted generation' (verse 41)? Why do you think he was so harsh?

5. The crowd were marvelling at what Jesus had just done for the boy. Why did Jesus choose to forewarn his disciples about 'being delivered into the hands of men' (verses 43-44)? See also verses 21-22.

6. The disciples did not understand Jesus when he told them about his inevitable death, as "it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it" (verse 45). Why do you think this was so (24:25-32)?

Application

7. What has God taught you when you were struggling with practising humility?

8. When pride is in your blindspot but clearly visible to those around you, what is the best way for them to speak into your life?

Pray for one another to be growing in humility together.

STUDY 5

LUKE 9:51-62

Introduction

"I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow Jesus. No turning back.

The cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back."

These were the final words of Nokheng, a Garo man from the Meghalaya tribe in India. He witnessed his family die at the hands of a group of angry villagers, before he too was martyred. He knew Jesus and understood the costs of following him.

Later, these words inspired a hymn that has been sung in many churches around the world. But have we ever paused to consider the full meaning and implication of these words? If you knew that following Jesus was costly, would you still be willing to follow him?

Context

On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus taught his followers to consider the costs of following him.

1. Jesus set *his face* to Jerusalem (verse 51). What does this tell you about Jesus and what he was going to do?

How was this different from what people thought he was going to do? See also verse 22 and Zechariah 9:9-10.

Observation

2. How did Jesus' disciples react to the Samaritans' rejection (verse 54)? Why do you think they reacted that way? See also 2 Kings 1:9-12.

3. How did Jesus respond to his disciples (verse 55)? What was he trying to teach them? See also John 3:17 and Luke 19:10.

Meaning

4. From Jesus' responses to the three people (verses 57-62), what was he teaching about the costs of following him? Feel free to reference any relevant verses.

5. We are taught to honour our father and mother (Ephesians 6:2) and to provide for members of our household (1 Timothy 5:8). How do we reconcile these verses with Luke 9:59-60? See also Psalm 45:10-11.

APPENDIX: INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHODS

5 Rs Bible Study Method

Instructions

- Read the passage together aloud
- Read the passage again slowly by yourself
- Follow the [5 Rs](#)¹ inductive bible study method
- Share your observations as a group

1. **Retell** (in pairs)

Are there parts I find unclear or confusing as I retell the narrative?

2. **Reveal**

What is revealed about Jesus through words and actions?

3. **React**

How are different people responding to Jesus here?

4. **Reason**

What reason do I think Luke had for including these events?

5. **Respond**

How will I respond to what this passage reveals about Jesus?

¹ <https://uncover.org.au/mark/the-5r-questions>

Swedish Bible Study Method

Instructions

- Read the passage together aloud
- Read the passage again slowly by yourself
- Follow the [Swedish](#)² inductive bible study method
- Mark the passage with the symbols - *You may want to print it out to annotate*
- Share your observations as a group

1.  **A light bulb**

Something that 'shines' from the passage

Whatever impacts you the most or draws your attention

2.  **A question mark**

Anything that is difficult to understand from the passage

A question you would like to ask the writer or the Lord

3.  **The cross**

A reason to love Jesus and his cross more

A glimpse of God's glory

4.  **An arrow**

A personal application for your life

Something you think the Spirit is telling you to do in obedience

5.  **A talking bubble**

Someone who can benefit from what you have learned – your aim is to talk to this person before the next meeting

² <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/six-questions-to-ask-when-studying-the-bible-in-a-group>

Seven Arrows Bible Study Method

Instructions

- Read the passage together aloud
- Read the passage again slowly by yourself
- Follow the [Seven Arrows](#)³ bible study method

1.  What does this passage say?
2.  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3.  What does this passage tell us about God?
4.  What does this passage tell us about people?
5.  What does this passage demand of me?
6.  How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
7.  How does this passage prompt me to pray?

³ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/seven-arrows-basics-bible-study>

Discovery Bible Study Method

Instructions

- Follow the [Discovery](#)⁴ bible study method
- Read the passage together aloud
- Read the passage again slowly by yourself
- Retell the passage in your own words in pairs
- Share your answers on these four questions

1.  What does this passage tell us about God?
2.  What does this passage tell us about people?
3.  What does this passage tell us to do?
4.  Who am I going to tell about what I have learned?

⁴ <https://www.dbsguide.org>