



Good News

for all people.

The Gospel of Luke

Week 8 LEADER Discussion Questions

Week of 10/16/22

Text: Luke 9:18-36, 57-62

Icebreaker: What kind of factors help build a person's reputation, whether good or bad?

This leads into verse 18 and the first question below as Jesus's identity is discussed.

Reputation may not be exactly the same as what Jesus is asking with the question, "Who do the crowds say that I am?", but it's a similar idea.

1. In verse 18, Jesus asks the disciples who others said he was. Think of one or two friends, neighbors, or coworkers who are not believers. What do you think they would say if you asked them who Jesus is?

Application: What's your answer? If you're a believer, how and when did you come to realize who Jesus is?

This is meant to invite people to share their testimony and to also help you hear from anyone who does not yet grasp Jesus's true identity.

2. In verses 21-22, why does Jesus tell the disciples to not publicly declare his identity?

Here's how one commentator, Leon Morris, answers this: "The Jews detested their state of subjection to the Romans and longed for deliverance. They were ready to follow almost anyone who claimed to be Messiah and in fact there were many petty revolts. Had Jesus been widely hailed as Messiah, people would have understood it as a political and military claim. They would have completely missed what he was teaching them."

Application: Is this something we are meant to follow in our day?

No! We'll see this change as we progress through Luke. The growing public nature of Jesus's ministry will lead to his public execution at the cross, but will be followed-up by his command to take the gospel to the nations (see Acts 1:8). It is "Good News for All People," right!?

3. What do you think Jesus means by "take up his cross daily and follow me" in verse 23? How could the following verses (vv. 24-27) help explain it?

As commentator Leon Morris puts it, "When a man from one of their villages took up a cross and went off with a little band of Roman soldiers, he was on a one-way journey. He would not be back. Taking up the cross meant the utmost in self-denial." The three "For..." statements in 24-27 help unpack what's meant: "For whoever would save...For what does it profit...For whoever is ashamed..."

Application: What does it look like to apply this in our lives? Be as specific as possible.

This could be a lengthy conversation! The idea here is one of self-denial, self-sacrifice, and total commitment. One specific example could be that someone has decided to adopt a lifestyle that's far less comfortable (modest home, car, etc.) than they could have so that they can be more generous and strategic with their paycheck.

4. Jesus's words in verse 27 are also found in Matthew and Mark, and are also immediately followed in them by the peculiar events of verses 28-36. What do you think the overarching point is of this "Transfiguration?"

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

This is an affirmation of Jesus's true identity as his true glory is made clearer and the voice of God affirms it. It's as though the "curtain" between the earth and the heavenly throne room is being temporarily pulled back to reveal a greater portion of what's normally hidden.

Do you think this could relate to what we just read in verses 18-20? If so, how?
This seems to tie in directly with Peter's declaration of who Jesus is.

5. Luke includes three exchanges between Jesus and would-be followers in verses 57-62. What overarching message do you think Jesus is communicating in these verses?

The main point is that followers of Jesus need a whole-hearted devotion to him and his Kingdom. In light of who Jesus is and the importance of his Kingdom purposes, there should be nothing that causes us to withhold our devotion or delay our response...

Application: What kind of things (concerns, interests, etc.) keep people in our day from a whole-hearted commitment to following Jesus?

...but, of course, we live in a world full of competing interests and concerns! Virtually anything can get in the way of our commitment. For example, our career, marriage, family, comfort, finances, leisure, etc. You can, of course, make this question more personal by substituting the "people in our day" in the question above with "you!"

It could be helpful for your group to take time to pray for each other—that you would be free of those things that are preventing you from a whole-hearted commitment to following Jesus. This is not a one-time act, but is an area where we should be in recurring confession and repentance.