



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

26 & 27 FEBRUARY 2022

“HOW DOES A DISCIPLE FOLLOW JESUS?”

LUKE 9.18-27

The main study guide material for this sermon series is to be purchased at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/for-everyone-bible-study-guide-215>.

It is recommended that the e-book be purchased. Nevertheless, individuals or Connect Groups that wish to purchase hardcopies may do so from physical Christian bookstores, or online stores (Amazon, Bookdepository, Blackwells, etc)

The material in this document is intentionally brief. It is intended as a supplement only.

- **Begin by reading the Scripture passage together.**
- **Review the video of the sermon if needed (see <http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>).**
- **Refer to the [main study guide](#) Chapter 11 as well as this supplementary material.**
- **Feel free to discuss as few or as many questions as best fits your group’s current context and present stage in life.**
- **Remember to allocate some time (15-20 min) to pray with and for one another, before ending your group session.**

Info Sidebox

The nature of discipleship: “Who is Jesus” shapes “how his disciples follow him”

This week's sermon passage from Luke 9:18-27 focuses on two central themes:

1. the true identity of Jesus
2. how Jesus' disciples should follow him

Luke establishes in his Gospel so that his audience or readers may be “certain of the things you were taught” (Lk. 1:4) about the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth. These themes fit well into the wider context of Lk. 9:1-50 which records Jesus' preparation of the twelve disciples for ministry. In this wider section, even the puppet Judean ruler Herod questions Jesus' identity (vv. 7-9) having heard about Jesus' and his disciples' ministry proclaiming God's kingdom and the many miracles and healings performed. The climactic summit of this wider section is the transfiguration of Jesus (vv. 28-36) which also literally occurs on a mountain – an account which points to Jesus' divine nature as God's Son. Luke was also keen to record the miracles before and after the transfiguration account (feeding the 5000 in vv. 10-17, and healing the boy with an unclean spirit in vv. 37-43) as miracles which Jesus alone had divine authority over, and could not be performed by the disciples, either wholly (feeding of the 5000) or at all (healing of the boy).

The first of these themes concerns the **true identity of Jesus** (vv.18-22), where other people's perception of Jesus' identity as one of the former prophets raised from the dead (v.19) is contrasted against Simon Peter's bold declaration Jesus is “the Christ of God” (v.20) - the long-awaited Messiah the OT Law and Prophets had spoken about. Jesus' response to this declaration however indicates that Peter and the disciples did not fully comprehend Jesus' true identity as the Christ.

Neither did the disciples grasp the implication of this identity on **how Christ's disciples should follow him** – the second key theme this passage highlights. Jesus' prediction of his suffering, rejection, death and resurrection (v. 22) directly reflects and links to his command that disciples must follow him by denying themselves and taking up their cross daily (v. 23). The next verses (vv. 24-25) amplify the contrast between self-preservation and personal gain, and the suffering, rejection and even physical death for the sake of Jesus and God's kingdom. Jesus concludes this exchange with the disciples with another prediction, that some of the twelve will have a glimpse of God's kingdom on earth before they die; either pointing immediately to the transfiguration account, or later to Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit signifying the birth of Christ's church in Acts 2.

Response, Application, Prayer

1. In 9:24-25 Jesus strongly connects wanting to save ourselves and wanting to “gain the whole world” to ultimately losing our lives and forfeiting ourselves.
 - a. Share in your groups an aspect of your life where you are
 - i. Trying to save yourself. Reflect on how your efforts might in fact be risking or endangering yourself?
 - ii. Striving to “gain the whole world”. How might your goals in fact be forfeiting yourself?

