

# THE GOSPEL OF *Luke*



## **Week 11: Jesus' Identity And Mission Revealed**

### **Introduction:**

Over the past few chapters, Jesus has revealed the nature of His upside-down Kingdom, where the poor are rich and the proud are put to shame. He tells His followers of the blessing and cost of being His followers and makes it very clear that those who claim to believe and follow must genuinely practice what they confess with their mouths by showing mercy, generosity, and a love so radical and unconditional that the world would see it as complete foolishness.

This week, the disciples have one of their most puzzling questions, “who is He?”, answered as the Lord reveals His glory and destiny in Luke Chapter 9.

**Note:** As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

## Questions:

### ***Read Luke 9:1-9***

1. (Breakout) Jesus sends His disciples from village to village in Israel. He gives them power to heal and authority over demons and commands them to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom. He tells them that whenever people do not receive the sent ones or their good news, the disciples are to shake the dust off their feet as they leave town. This is an act that symbolizes someone being cut off from Israel. This would be understandable for a gentile village, but these were most likely all Jews. In light of Luke 3:7-9, What is Jesus making even more clear here?

### **Luke 3:7-9**

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Answer:

***Read Luke 9:10-17***

2. The disciples have had a very long day of ministry. They have little energy, money, and food. As evening approaches they are anxious about the crowd and want to call it a day. But Jesus commands them, on top of everything else that day, to feed the crowd. While it seems like Jesus asks the disciples to do the impossible themselves, the story plays out differently. What continuing theme do you see here that will be amplified throughout the unified story of Luke-Acts?

Answer:

***Read Luke 9:18-27***

3. Finally, it is confirmed to the disciples that Jesus is the messiah whom God had promised to send. This is great news! But what Jesus shares after that is surprising. In the minds of His followers, how would Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death go against His identity as the messiah?

Answer:

***Read Luke 9:28-36***

4. (Breakout) What do you think the purpose of the transfiguration is? Review the chapter so far and see if you can find the purpose of this event in Jesus ministry. What intended purpose might the recording of this event have had on the original audience of this gospel? Hint: Luke 1:1-3

Answer:

5. What do you think was the significance of Moses and Elijah being present at the transfiguration?

Answer:

***Read Luke 9:37-50***

6. When the disciples could not heal the seizing boy, Jesus expressed grief toward a faithless and wicked generation. Whom is He speaking about, and why does react in this way?

Answer:

7. (Breakout) The insecurity caused by the disciples' failure to heal causes an argument about who is the greatest. Jesus uses this moment (one of many) to teach them about true greatness in His kingdom. Those who are least will be greatest. When John raises a question about other groups doing works in Jesus' name, though not being part of the "group", Jesus surprisingly allows it. What does this interaction teach us about the greater church and the way we see ourselves among other denominations?

Answer:

## **Closing Thought:**

Jesus is, without a doubt, the messiah, the Son of God Himself. He has been sent by the Father to deliver us from our sin, to free us from our bondage, to restore life to us, and to lead us! May we live lives that not only acknowledge Jesus as savior, but truly believe in Him and trust in Him in every situation God places us in. For our own sake, but also for the sake of the world around us, to whom we are called to proclaim this Savior.