



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

LESSON 8 - STUDY QUESTIONS LUKE 9:1-62

DAY ONE

1. What parable from last week's lesson (Lesson 7, Chapter 8) was your favorite? Share some thoughts on this parable with your small group.

Read Luke 9:1-9

2a. In today's lesson Jesus began to reveal His messianic mission and what He expected of His disciples. In verse 1, Jesus called the twelve together. Who are the twelve? (Refer to Luke 6:13-16)

b. Jesus sent the twelve on a mission to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. Describe the power and authority He gave to them (verse 1).

3a. What special instructions did Jesus give His apostles in verse 3?

b. What would this compel the apostles to rely on during the mission trip?

4a. In verse 4 Jesus told them, "Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there." He also told them specifically what to do if they are rejected. Record verse 5.

NOTE: It was the custom for Jews and Israelites returning from Gentile territory before crossing the border into the Promised Land to shake the dust of the pagan lands off their feet as symbolic of the "uncleanness" of pagans and the "purity" of the Promised Land and those in covenant with Israel's God. (Agape Bible Study, Gospel of Luke, Lesson 7)

b. The apostles did as they were instructed by Jesus. They departed and went through the villages. According to verse 6, what did they do?

5a. In verse 7 we learn that Herod heard about the things that Jesus was doing, and wondered at the "rumors" he heard that perhaps John the Baptist had been raised from the dead or that Elijah or another ancient prophet had arisen. According to verse 9, what did Herod say and do?

b. Read and record Matthew 14:1-2 which confirms that Herod thought that John the Baptist had come back to life.

6. CONNECTION: Think how astounded Herod (who had beheaded John the Baptist) would have been if John had really come back from the dead! Herod may not have regretted the horrendous murder of John at the time, but if the victim came back to life who knows what might happen! We have all known people like Herod who commit wrongs and only regret them when and if they are "caught". They judge their actions not by the right or wrong of what they do, but rather, by how it makes them look, or by the potential consequences to them. Teaching "right from wrong" can be challenging! Share with your small group an example of how you taught a difficult "right from wrong" to your children, or an example of how you learned this from your parents or others.

Read and record Matthew 7:12 and begin your prayer today asking God to help you do all things in love.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 9:10-17

7. As today's lesson begins, the apostles returned from their mission, and told Jesus all that they had done. Taking them with Him, they withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. What happened when the crowds found out that Jesus had left, according to verse 11?

8. The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve apostles came to Jesus and asked Him to send the crowd away. Why did they want Him to do this (verse 12)?

9. Jesus would have none of that! He said to them, "You give them something to eat." How did they answer Him (verse 13)?

10a. There were about 5,000 men gathered (a number probably not including women and children). Jesus told the disciples to make them sit down in groups of about 50 each, which they did. According to verse 16, what did Jesus then do?

NOTE: Numbers have symbolic significance in the Bible. For example, the number "5" or multiples of 5 such as "50", "500", or "5000" represent grace, or God's favor, and were often related to Jewish feasts. For example the Feast of Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after Passover.

b. The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle that Jesus performed which appears in all four Gospels. Find and record a similar event in another Gospel and note a similarity or difference.

11a. Today's lesson ends on a peaceful note, but it also emphasized the magnitude of the miracle. Record verse 17.

b. One of the themes throughout the Old and New Testaments is the kingdom of God as a great feast. In today's lesson, after proclaiming the kingdom of God and healing those that needed to be cured, Jesus fed the 5,000. This miracle prefigured the Last Supper in which He poured Himself out in the Eucharist. Read and record one of the following examples of the banquet of the Lord.

Isaiah 25:6

Revelation 19:17

12. CONNECTION: As a devout Jew, Jesus offered a blessing before distributing the food. A traditional Jewish blessing of food began with the words "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth" Similarly, in the Offertory in the Mass the priest says "Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this

bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.” We Catholics traditionally say a blessing or “grace” before and sometimes after meals. How do you acknowledge the blessings you have received from God at meals and for which you are thankful? What special prayers are shared?

Read and record [John 6:35](#) and begin your prayer today thanking Jesus for the great privilege of sharing in the feast of the kingdom of God.

DAY THREE

Read Luke 9:18-27

13a. Verse 18 of today's lesson once again reveals Jesus praying alone with the disciples near Him. He asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" What was their response according to verse 19?

b. Jesus then asked the disciples directly, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter's answer in verse 20 is "The Messiah of God." Refer to the definition of messiah. Do you think Peter the apostle understood who Jesus was? Share some thoughts.

14a. Jesus then foretold to them His death and resurrection, commanding them not to tell anyone (verse 21). Record the prediction of His passion from verse 22.

b. In the foretelling of His terrible suffering, death, and glorious resurrection, we can see that Jesus clearly understood the path ahead of Him, and accepted it freely. How did Jesus describe the similar path His followers must take (verse 23)?

15a. Each of the next two verses contain a paradox. Look up and record the definition of paradox.

b. The paradox in verse 24 teaches that those who want to save their life will lose it and those who lose their life for His sake will save it. Read and record the paradox in verse 25.

16. Jesus presented another paradox as he described the fate of those who are ashamed of Him or of His words. What will happen to those who are ashamed or unaccepting of Him (verse 26)?

17. Jesus ended this serious talk with His disciples with a mysterious statement. Some scholars suggest it foretold the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., or perhaps pertained to the three disciples who witnessed His transfiguration (described in tomorrow's readings), or even the birth of the Church. Record verse 27.

18. CONNECTION: In much of today's lesson, we hear Jesus prepare the disciples for the difficult road that He would follow and the difficult road of Christian discipleship. Who do we say that Jesus is? Can we, as Jesus commanded His disciples, confess our faith without being ashamed? Can we acknowledge Him when it would be easier to remain silent? Can we "pick up our cross" on a daily basis and follow Him? Consider what you think is most challenging in being a Christian ... a Catholic ... and what is most rewarding, and share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Romans 1:16-17 and begin your prayer today asking God for the strength to live unabashedly as a Christian, confessing your faith by your words and deeds.

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 9:28-36

19a. Luke begins today's lesson when Jesus took Peter, John and James went up on the mountain to pray. According to verse 29, what happened while He was praying on the mountain top?

b. The transfiguration, in which Jesus' appearance changed and became glorious, confirmed that His suffering was to end in heavenly glory (USCCB). How many days had passed since the first prophecy of his passion, death and resurrection (Luke 9:28)? Do you see any significance in the number of days?

20a. Suddenly, Peter, John and James saw two men, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and were talking to Jesus. According to verse 31, of what were they speaking?

b. Moses is the great "law-giver" and Elijah is considered the greatest of prophets, thus representing "the law and the prophets." These two figures "spoke of Jesus' departure" (or, literally in Greek, His "exodus"), which He was to accomplish at Jerusalem. Read and record Matthew 5:17.

21. We read that the apostles were "weighed down with sleep." When they were awake they saw Jesus' glory and the two men who stood with Him. This is the second time the word "glory" appears in this paragraph. Comment on what you think glory means in the religious sense (verse 32).

22. In verse 33 Peter suggested to Jesus that the apostle witnesses make three dwellings: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. What happened while he was saying this (verse 34)?

23a. What did the voice from within the cloud say to them (verse 35)?

b. When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. What did the apostles do afterward?

24. CONNECTION: Today's reading of the Transfiguration is mysterious and challenging. Our catechism tells us that "The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of Christ's glorious coming, when he will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body." As stated by Pope Benedict XVI in Jesus of Nazareth, vol.1, "On the mountain the three of them see the glory of God's Kingdom shining out of Jesus. On the mountain they are overshadowed by God's holy cloud." Just as the Transfiguration strengthened the apostles' faith, this momentary glimpse into the hope of glory can strengthen ours. Share some thoughts with your small group about your vision of what heaven may be like on that glorious day and why you can in faith look forward to it!

Read and record 1 Corinthians 6:14 and begin your prayer today praising God for the glorious day to come.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 9:37-50

25a. As today's lesson begins, it is "the next day" and Jesus and the apostles had come down from the mountain. A great crowd met Him. What did a man from the crowd shout (verse 38)?

b. The boy was seized by a spirit, foamed at the mouth, convulsed and was being mauled (verse 39). What had the father asked of the disciples and what was the outcome?

26a. With what words did Jesus respond?

b. Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 32:5 in which Moses prophesied the failures of Israel because of their lack of faith in God. Review Luke 9:1-2 and describe why you think Jesus would have been disappointed in his disciples.

NOTE: To better understand Jesus' frustration with His disciples, read Matthew 17:19-20 or Mark 9:28-29.

27a. While the man was bringing his son to Jesus, the boy again convulsed and was dashed to the ground. What did Jesus do (verse 42)?

b. What was the reaction of those who were there (verse 43)?

28. People continued to be amazed at all Jesus was doing. For the second time Jesus foretold His death, saying "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands." What was the disciple's reaction according to verse 45?

29a. The apostles began to argue as to who among them was the greatest. But Jesus knew what they were thinking, and He picked up a small child and addressed them. What did He say (verse 48)?

b. John then told Jesus that the apostles had tried to stop someone who was casting out demons in Jesus' name because he did not "follow with us." They had forgotten that just as Jesus chose them, He could choose others. What was Jesus' answer (verse 50)?

30. CONNECTION: Jesus must have had his hands full with His disciples! Even those who were closest to Him and had witnessed many of His miracles continued to fail Him. Not only did they "fail" at curing the boy with seizures, but in this lesson showed rivalry among themselves as well as intolerance of outsiders. These men who were entrusted with the job of handing down the faith were imperfect ... they suffered from wavering faith, desire for recognition, jealousy, and self-centeredness. Like them, we are imperfect, but we continue despite our mistakes and failings to pass along our faith. Share with your small group how recognizing a "faith failure" helped you or someone you know come even closer to the Lord.

Read and record Psalm 86:11 and write a short prayer today asking God to use our failings to teach us His way.

DAY SIX

Read Luke 9:51-62

31. In today's lesson, the time came for Jesus to start His journey to Jerusalem where He would be crucified, die, and be taken up to heaven (verse 51). This is a turning point in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus sent messengers ahead of him (verse 52) through Samaria to make ready for Him. According to verse 53, what happened?

NOTE: There was historical antipathy between the Judeans and the Samaritans; this may be reflected in the Samaritans not being willing to receive Jesus. (Sacra Pagina, The Gospel of Luke, p. 162)

32. This insult made the apostles angry, and James and John suggested to Jesus that they could command fire to come down from heaven and consume the Samaritans. What was Jesus' answer according to verse 55 and what did they do?

33a. As they were going along the road, someone said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go." What was Jesus' answer according to verse 58?

b. We have read that Jesus had suffered rejection in His home town of Nazareth and now Samaritans had shut their doors to Jesus and His followers. He warns the potential follower in verse 58 that greater challenges await Him (and thus His followers). Read and record the law of hospitality (broken by Samaritans) in Leviticus 19:34.

34a. What did Jesus say to another man who wished to follow Him, and what was the other's answer?

b. Jesus' answer appeared unsympathetic; however, once again His words painted a picture of how difficult it is to set aside obligations in order to follow Him. Record His answer (verse 60).

35. Another said, "I will follow you Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." What was Jesus' reply (verse 62)?

36. CONNECTION: Each of the would-be followers in today's lesson had what would appear to be a good reason to delay before they put aside everything to follow Jesus. But Jesus rejected all of their excuses. Those who would follow Him must be willing to give up everything, unconditionally. While His answers sound harsh, how many times do WE put "conditions" on our commitments, even to being a Christian? As well as love and generosity, our faith requires humility, commitment and obedience. These can be much more difficult to accept and integrate into our busy lives. Today set aside a special time to meditate and pray, and then write a prayer that includes your answer to Jesus' words: "Follow Me."

Read and record Mark 8:35 and pray the prayer that you wrote above.

After completing this lesson, read pages 62-72 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

©Copyright 2015. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study

thecornerstonescripturestudy.org