

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?"

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: June 5, 2022

SPEAKER: Frank/Wil

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 9:18-27

Family Dinner Table

Helping children to understand our study in Luke 9 may seem like a daunting task for parents. How does one teach Jesus' message of self-denial and daily cross-bearing to children? Pastor and theologian Paul David Tripp encourages parents to start with the Genesis account and show them that they were created for something bigger than themselves:²

1. We were made to live for God (Genesis 1:26).
2. We were made to live for truth (Genesis 1:28, 2:16).
3. We were made to live for community (Genesis 2:18).
4. We were made to live for stewardship (Genesis 1:28).

(ibid. *What Were You Made to Live For?*)

Teaching our children that their "lives are designed to be shaped by [their] attachment to the Creator"³ helps them understand that they were created with divine purpose. That they belong to him and exist through him are foundational truths that will lay the groundwork for children to become faithful followers of Christ.

- As a parent, what kinds of things can you do that will help your children follow Christ?
- What does it look like to encourage kids to die to self and live for Christ?

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Covenant Theological Seminary,
denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Sarah and M., supported missionary partners, serving in a sensitive region to educate the underground church by training refugees who could impact fellowships they left behind.

If you've seen the comedy, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, you're probably familiar with the scene where King Arthur and his company of men come upon the Bridge of Death. Aptly named because in order to cross the bridge, travelers must correctly answer three questions from the Keeper of the Bridge or they will be slung into the Gorge of Eternal Peril. Brave Sir Lancelot volunteers to go first and is asked the initial question by the scruffy, old keeper, "What... is your name?" Lancelot replies, "Sir Lancelot of Camelot." The bridge keeper proceeds to ask him a second question, "What... is your quest?" Lancelot responds, "To seek the Holy Grail." The suspense builds as the final question is asked, "What... is your favorite color?" Lightheartedly, Lancelot simply answers, "Blue," after which he is allowed to cross the bridge. Emboldened by the easy questions, Sir Robin confidently steps up, assured of his success. Breezing through the first two questions just as Lancelot, Sir Robin quickly deflates as the old man switches up the third question with, "What... is the capital of Assyria?" Flustered, Sir Robin retorts, "I don't know that!" and is straightaway launched into the gorge.

As amusing and slapstick as this scene from the *Monty Python* movie happens to be, there is an analogy for us in today's study of Luke 9:18-27: Everyone must give an answer to the one crucial question, "Who is Jesus?" And our response to it carries life or death significance.

- If you recall from previous studies, the disciples (8:25) and King Herod (9:7-9) wondered the same thing. Why is "Who is Jesus?" an important question for us as well? (1 John 5:1-5)
- Review the previous studies in the Gospel of Luke. What evidences can you list that Jesus is "The Christ of God"? (See Luke's summary in Acts 2:22-24.)

After Peter's confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (cf. Matthew 16:16), Jesus issues a strong warning to "tell this to no one" which confused his followers. He then begins to unfold the upcoming events leading toward his death (vv. 21-22).

- How was Jesus' plan for redemption different from those around him? (cf. Matthew 22:41-46; John 6:14-15; Acts 1:6.)
- Read Isaiah 53, Malachi 4:5, and Luke 1:17. How important is prophecy in pointing us to Christ? Why was it important for Jesus to explain to his disciples the events that will lead up to his death? (See also Luke 24:44-48.)

In verses 23-27, Jesus then gives a sobering call to all true followers of him. The cost of discipleship requires a denial of self that ultimately leads to true life. In her TGC article entitled *What Does It Mean to Deny Yourself and Take Up Your Cross?* LMPC member Christy Gambrell explains that Christians often have incorrect associations with phrases such as "self-denial" and "cross-bearing": "If we consider how we pursue self-denial, we might find that we associate denying ourselves with denying our desires...Cross-bearing is, perhaps, even more misunderstood. 'We all have our crosses to bear' is applied to a variety of difficulties, from being used in jest ('I'm going to a conference in Florida next week—we all have our crosses to bear'), to expressing frustration over minor inconveniences (such as the habitual lateness of a family member), to describing truly difficult situations like temptations, long-term sickness, or difficult relationships...Christ calls us to exclusive allegiance and complete submission to him. Although extreme and all-encompassing, self-denial and cross-bearing do not eradicate or repress the self. Rather, the Holy Spirit works through them, restoring the image of God in us as we grow in Christlikeness and become more fully who we were created to be."¹

- What three things must one do to follow Christ (v. 23)?
- Read Luke 14:25-33. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus? Why is it important that we follow him daily? (cf. 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:3-4; Matthew 6:33.)
- What astonishing assertion does Jesus make in verses 24-25? Discuss how it is depicted in the parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31).

¹Gambrell, Christy. "What Does It Mean to Deny Yourself and Take up Your Cross?" The Gospel Coalition, 5 Feb. 2022, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/deny-yourself-cross/>.

²Tripp, Paul D. *What Were You Made to Live For?* PaulTripp.com, April 5, 2017. <https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/what-were-you-made-to-live-for>