

Jesus unplugged: Luke 9:51-19:27

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first presbyterian church kosciusko, mississippi study series
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Bring “ordinary life” and “kingdom life” together by listening to Jesus in the Gospel of Luke answering questions, Jesus conversing at the supper table, Jesus talking things over, Jesus telling stories—Jesus unhurried and interruptible.

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Scripture to Read

Luke 9:1-62 (for background and setting)

Sermon text: Luke 9:51-62

Summary of Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem in order to lay down his life for his own. His mind is made up. He is committed to the mission the Father has given him, and he loves those whom the Father has given him. Stepping forward toward Jerusalem, Jesus encounters opposition from Samaritans and hesitation from would-be disciples.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

Questions for Personal Study

- What, if anything, surprised you about this passage?
- What does v.51 suggest about Jesus’ understanding of his mission? Was there a divine plan behind everything in his life? Was he conscious of that plan? How committed was he to that plan?
- To what is Luke referring when he uses the phrase ‘the days drew near for him to be taken up’ in v.51?
- How were Jesus and his disciples received in the Samaritan village?
- How do James and John respond? Why would they respond that way? Read 2 Kings 1 for some insight.
- How does Jesus respond to James and John’s suggestion?
- What are your typical responses to the opposition and resistance to the gospel that you encounter?
- How would you characterize the three would-be disciples who speak to Jesus in v.57-62?

Questions for Group Discussion

- What attractiveness do you see in the way Luke describes Jesus’ determination to travel to Jerusalem?
- James and John may have been thinking of 2 Kings 1:9-12 when they spoke. What do 2 Kings 6:20-23, Exodus 23:4-5, Matthew 5:44 and Romans 12:19-21 have to say about enemies and opposition?
- What does the rebuke Jesus issues to James and John tell us about the way that the kingdom of God advances? How should this affect our attitude toward the enemies of the gospel? Who are some of the enemies of the gospel we face?
- What kinds of “good things” keep you from being ready to follow Jesus wherever he goes? What can you learn from the different ways that Jesus responds to people?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Tuesday: Read to your children the account of Luke 9:51-56. Ask your child to remember a special trip. Explain how Jesus was starting a trip to Jerusalem, where he would die on the cross. Explain that Jesus loves us so much that he went on that trip, even though he knew he would suffer and die. Take some time worshiping God together in song and praying for things that you are both thankful God has given you.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Explain to your children that the Bible is divided into two parts. The Old Testament (39 books) was written before Jesus came, and the New Testament (27 books) was written after He came to earth. Explain to them that God told the authors exactly what to write down, and that the books of the Bible are how God speaks to us. Tell them that Luke wrote two books of the Bible—one that tells us about Jesus living among us and the other (Acts) about how the Church spread and grew after Jesus went up into heaven.

Friday: Explain to your children that Christians can tell other people about Jesus so that they too can become Christians. Tell them that God used Luke to write his two books for man named Theophilus (Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1-3), so that Theophilus and many other people would believe in Jesus. Help children identify the people in their life that God uses to teach them about Jesus. Ask them if there are any friends they have who aren't Christians that they could speak to about Jesus. Pray to God thanking Him for the people in the children's life and asking Him to change the heart of non-Christians your family knows.

Saturday: Quiz your children on Catechism questions or Bible memory verses they are learning. Pray for Phillip and for their Sunday School teacher.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.