



*This guide is provided to help facilitate a clear understanding of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives as individuals and as a group. Therefore, spend at least half your time discussing questions that are application focused. While the guide has been bulked up, you still need to prepare by praying through the passage, reviewing the guide on your own, and thinking about how your group might answer questions and follow-up questions.*

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## Introduction

### Background, Context and Structure

Luke the Greek physician was Paul's companion during his mission in proclaiming the gospel. Luke wrote this gospel as the first volume of a single work, consisting of The Gospel Of Luke and Acts. Both volumes are addressed to Theophilus and are written in a similar style. The Book of Acts refers to The Gospel Of Luke in its introduction. As a Greek and later a companion of Paul, Luke had never met Jesus personally, yet as a scholar and physician, he set upon the task to interview and record the events of the life of Jesus, according to Jesus' close companions and earliest eyewitnesses (1:1-4). Luke's gospel is, therefore, the most detailed, and it contains the most material of the three synoptic gospels.

### Structure of passage

- 9:51-56      The cross redefines judgment and mercy.
- The Samaritans' rejection of Jesus as he goes to Jerusalem.
  - It is not for us to judge others outside of salvation.
  - God will be the final judge.
  - Jesus is the one that absorbs God's judgment for those that will put their faith in him.
- 9:57-62      The cross redefines what following Jesus entails.
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
  - Three warnings to follow.
  - The cross shows us:
    1. Separation from the world
    2. Proclamation of God's kingdom comes first
    3. Priority and commitment to Jesus

## Big idea of the Text

Jesus set his face towards Jerusalem to die for our sins, and this redefines our allegiance.

## What your CG must take away.

“Set your face” towards Jesus, follow Him the same way he went, by dying to yourself.

### **Read Luke 9:51-56**

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. <sup>53</sup> But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> And they went on to another village.

Q1. Why did the Samaritans reject Jesus?

Q2a. While the Samaritans showed their prejudice towards Jesus, how did the disciples’ response to them display a similar prejudice?

Q2b. Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples’ call for judgment?

Q3a. How do we view Jesus in a similar way to the disciples or the Samaritans?

Q3b. How do we sometimes view unbelievers like the disciples?

Q4. Why did Jesus want to go to Jerusalem? (v51)

Q5. Read Acts 8:14-16, John went to Samaria to preach the gospel to the Samaritans. How did John have this change of heart? And so how does Jesus’ gospel show us how we ought to view ourselves and unbelievers?

### **Read Luke 9:57-62**

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Q6a. What attitude does Jesus ask of these men for following him?

Q6b. If salvation is freely given in the gospel, why would Jesus make demands of those who want to follow Him?

Q6c. What does it mean for us to follow Jesus, in light of Jesus' journey to the cross?

Q7a. How have we sometimes been similar to those in the passage, in our response to Jesus?

Q7b. What are you finding hard to leave behind?

Q7c. Do you have any regrets when it comes to following Jesus? How are you sometimes tempted to look back?

Q8. How might God be challenging you to proclaim the Kingdom of God (at work, family, school and at church)?

### **Takeaways and Encouragement**

Share, encourage and pray for one another, that you may:

- 1) Consider our prejudices towards others, and how the gospel then challenges how we view ourselves and those around us.
- 2) Understand the cost and challenges of following Christ, and proclaiming the gospel. Whilst being encouraged by the truth of the gospel in our own lives, and the reality of his redemptive and salvific work.