

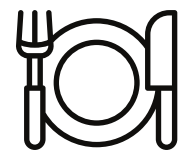
THE SON

A COLLECTION OF TALKS FROM LUKE 7 – 9



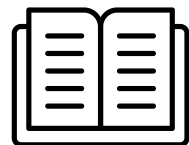
Order of the session

1. Connect (45 mins)
2. Study (45 mins)
3. Pray (30 mins)



Connect

Spend some time connecting together.



Study

This is the eighth week of our studies in Luke 7–9.



Pray

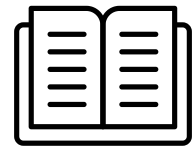
Spend some time praying for each other.

MAIN IDEA

The main idea to get out of this passage is that **Jesus' messiahship and his death, BOTH display his greatness, and that being a disciple of Christ means living according to Jesus' definition of great for those in the Kingdom of God.**

STUDY #8

Luke 9:37-50



Read Luke 9:37-50 (5 mins)

Q1

How would you **summarise the different scenes** in this passage? **(3 mins)**

*This is just an introductory question to help people **remember what happened in the passage** as there are **four short incidents** linking Jesus' mission and his message for the disciples.*

1. Jesus heals a **demon possessed boy** after the disciples failed to cast out the demon (9:37-43a)
2. Jesus **prophesies about his death** (9:43b-45)
3. The **disciples argue** about who among them is the greatest (9:46-48)
4. Jesus highlights those that do ministry/ work in his name are not to be prohibited, alluding to the Kingdom of God Jesus came to proclaim, which includes gentiles and not the original Jewish believers (9:49-50)

Q2

Why do you think the **disciples couldn't cast out the demon** and **what do you make of Jesus' response** in verses 40-41? **(5 mins)**

Here are some ideas that people might come up with. Don't worry about people coming up with the exact answers, but these are some of the things people might mention.

1. We are told Jesus is troubled by the disciples and all who **lack faith** as they are not yet prepared to receive him.
2. We **aren't told which disciples tried to cast out the demon**. It was **possibly a disciple (i.e. not an Apostle) who decided to cast out the demon**; however, only the 12 Apostles were given power by Jesus to cast out demons. Perhaps the disciples (i.e. not Apostles) had taken a place of pride due to the excitement of seeing Jesus' perform miracles?
3. In v. 41, Jesus hints at the nearing of his earthly ministry "how long am I to be with you and bear with you?". After teaching and training the disciples for the last two years Jesus is upset by the disciples continued spiritual failure.

Q3

Why do you think **Jesus pivots from the crowds marvelling at his greatness to speaking about his death** in verses 43–44? **(5 mins)**

While everyone was marvelling at Jesus' "greatness," he quickly pivots to highlight that his greatness is ultimately shown in his death. This clarifies what it means for him to be "God's Messiah/Christ" (think back to two weeks ago). This is also the second time Jesus' death is foretold, and the second time the disciples do not understand that he must die in order to bring the Kingdom of God.

Q4

What do you think the disciples were **hoping for out of their conversation** in verse 46? **(5 mins)**

*Right after Jesus had spoken about his "departure" (on the mountain) and his sacrifice in willingly being "delivered" into the hands of men, his disciples were **thinking about their own greatness**. Not only does this show their inability to understand the magnitude of Jesus' mission on earth to be a living sacrifice for their sins, but also reiterates the need for Jesus to die in their place, due to mankind's **selfishness** and **sinful nature**, similar to Adam and Eve who wanted to be like God. Their reaction also brings to light their misunderstanding about what the kingdom of God will entail. They were expecting Jesus to reign from an earthly throne, and wanted to be included in his position of prestige and authority.*

Q5

Based on these verses **what do you think a child teaches us** about being a disciple of Jesus? **(5 mins)**

Throughout the Gospel of Luke Jesus teaches his disciples about Christian fellowship and who can enter the Kingdom of God (see Luke 7:28). Jesus is highlighting that even children are regarded as great in the Kingdom of God. That being a follower of Christ looks like welcoming those regarded as insignificant, and humble. Thus reiterating the consistent theme in Luke's gospel that the weak and lowly are more likely to enter the kingdom of God than the rich and mighty (e.g. Luke 14:15–25).

Q6

German Theologian **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** says this about the cost of discipleship:

"The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

Share this quote with your group, and then ask: **Flowing out of this passage (Luke 9:37–50), what do you find helpful or encouraging about this quote? (5 mins)**

Find a way of sharing this with your group, whether displaying it on a TV, printing it out, or posting the quote to your CG's message group. People might share some of the following things:

- *The cross compels us to respond to God's great love shown through Jesus' death and resurrection.*
- *This call to obedience is simply to **deny ourselves** and the fleeting tokenistic titles of this world.*
- *As Jesus humbled himself, even to the point of death he calls us to **imitate him** by being lowly in nature when sharing the gospel of the kingdom of God.*
- *We can expect hardship in this life as followers of Christ, but those who serve with humble hearts before the lord will share in the glory of Jesus in heaven.*

Q7

Compare **what our world thinks is greatness** with **what greatness means in the kingdom of God** in these life areas: **(7 mins)**

- Work
- Relationships
- Church
- Money
- Leisure

*Either **pick one or two areas as a whole group**, OR **split into smaller groups and pick an area each**. The aim is to land what discipleship means in people's everyday lives. Spend some good time on this.*

Finish by praying—see first page for details