

## COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

### The Kingdom Is Near

LUKE 9:28-48

#### OVERVIEW

Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus as the Perfect Man who came to save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe his claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose him will not be satisfied until the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the resurrection ensures that his ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue through his disciples once they have been equipped with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Luke reveals that Jesus is the King, and he has come to inaugurate his Kingdom. (Adapted from *Talk Through the Bible*).

#### APPLY // LUKE 9:18-27

1. Read Luke 9:18-27
2. How might we be tempted to confess Jesus is the Christ but functionally distort what he came to do?
3. How can we as Christian deny ourselves and take up our cross and yet also be joyful?
4. What do you find most difficult or challenging in these verses? Comforting and encouraging?

#### OBSERVE & INTERPRET // LUKE 9:28-48

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

**Overview/Big Idea:** Jesus is the Christ, who came to die that through dying to self we might live.

1. Read Luke 9:28-48.
2. What happens to Jesus as he was praying? What do we learn about Jesus from this appearance change?
3. What is significant about the identities of Moses and Elijah?
4. Why were they speaking about Christ's departure? What does this discussion imply about our salvation?
5. In verse 33, why does Peter say, "Master, it is good that we are here..."
6. In verse 34, what is the meaning and significance of the cloud?
7. What does God say about Jesus in verse 35? What do these words tell us about Jesus? (cf. See Deuteronomy 18:15-18).
8. Summarize the events of verses 37-40. Contrast verse 40 with 9:6. Why couldn't the disciples cast the demon out?
9. Contrast how the demon and Jesus treated the boy. What does this tell us about Jesus? How does this passage connect back to verses 28-36?

10. While the crowds were marveling at Jesus' demon rebuke, what does Jesus say to the disciples? Why does he focus his words to the disciples?
  11. What does Jesus mean when he urged his disciples to let his words "sink into your ears"?
  12. Why do you think they didn't understand and were afraid to ask Jesus about this saying?
  13. What type of argument arises among the disciples? How does Jesus respond?
  14. What does it mean that "whoever receives this child in my name receives me"? Why is it true that "whoever receives me [Jesus] receives him who sent me [the Father]"?
  15. In verse 48, what does it mean to be the "least among you all"? Why is this person the truly great one? How did Jesus model this for us?
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
    - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Are you pursuing the good life in Christ? Where do you need to deny yourself and take up your cross to follow Jesus?