



the AMAZING WORKS *of* CHRIST



Luke 3-9

WEEKS 5-8
LEADER & MEMBER GUIDE



HEAD-HEART-HANDS-HABITS

In this series, we will be studying the key beliefs that we strongly hold to as followers of Christ and as a church body. In order to help convey the importance of each truth and how we can apply it to our lives, we will be using a different approach in our LifeGroup discussions to help us read, interpret, and apply these truths with the goal of growing as disciples of Jesus Christ!

The Head - Heart - Hands framework seeks to help us live a life balanced by our thinking, feeling, and behavior. It isn't meant for us to pick and choose, but all are necessary in order to help us live our lives fully in the faith that comes from Christ, as we seek to love Him with our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

In each lesson, there will be questions from each of the areas: Head, Heart, Hands, and Habits. Just as we can't live a healthy, balanced life by only eating one or two foods, we must have all of these areas to live a healthy spiritual life in Christ. As a result, it is important that you discuss questions from each of these areas. For many, you will find several questions to choose from. Choose the question(s) that will most benefit your LifeGroup from each section rather than trying to answer every question in order to discuss each topic in the time allowed. Each type plays an important role in our walk and growth as followers of Christ.



Head Questions: What we believe and think (Psalm 119:130)

- "Intellectual" questions that help us to understand the teaching points in the passage
- Discuss our thoughts and understanding of what the passage says
- Think of it as: What do you understand in this passage?

Heart Questions: What we love and desire (Romans 12:1-2)

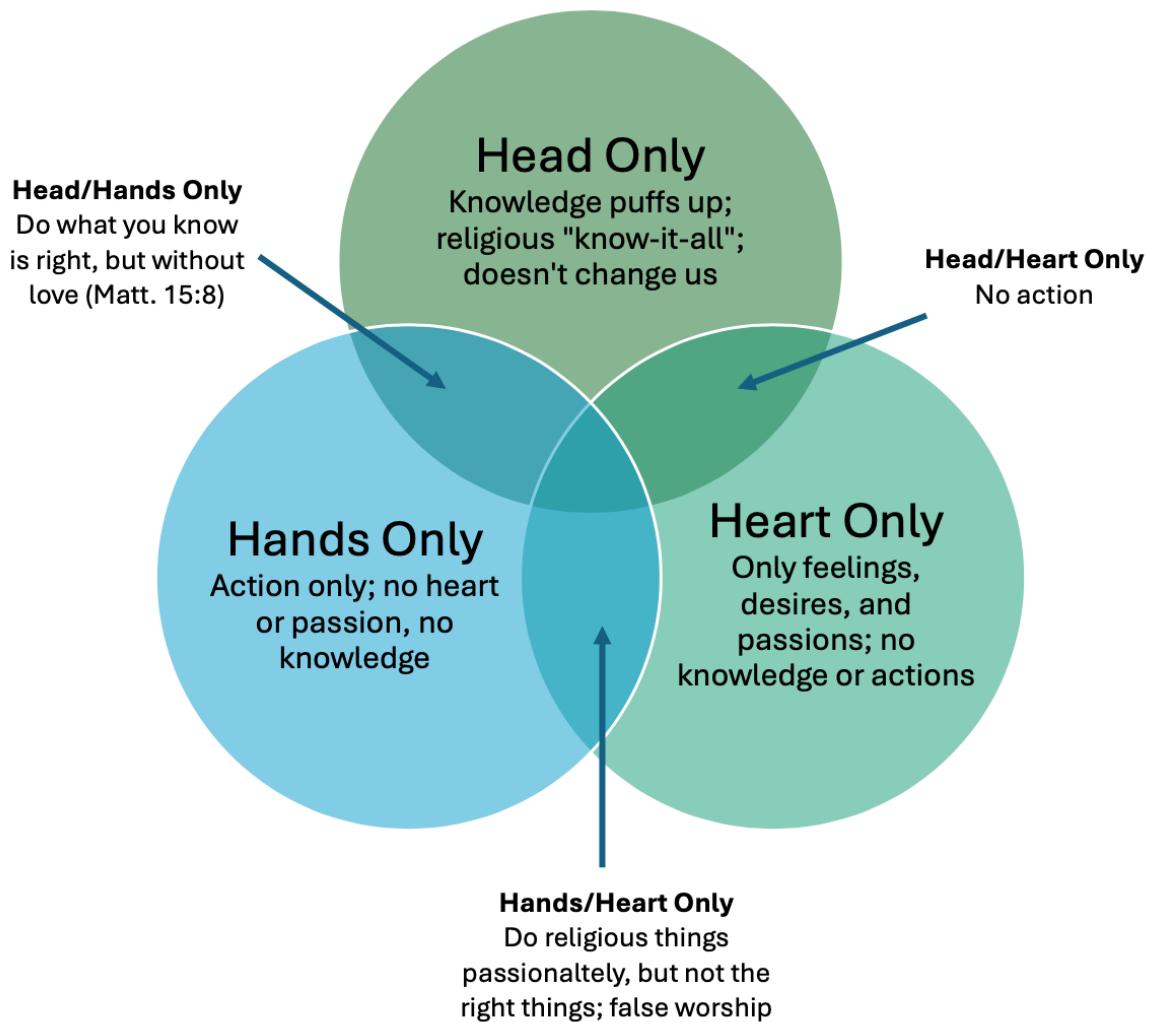
- "Emotional" questions that help us to understand the importance of the passage and to be affected by it, not just informed by it
- Examine our desires, feelings, will, and choices, as well as our passions
- Think of it as: What moves and motivates you in this passage?

Hands Questions: What we choose and do (Titus 3:1-8)

- "Practical" questions that help us to see the implications of what the passage teaches, and to be determined to act on it.
- As our mind and values change, our actions should follow!
- Think of it as: What will you do with this passage?

It isn't enough to just have one or two of these areas in our lives. It is important and necessary that we have a balance of all three!

The Dangers of Not Using All Three



As we allow God to work in our lives in all three of these aspects, we grow in our relationship with Him and allow Him to transform our lives. As a result, we can develop Habits that honor and glorify Him!

Habit Questions help us answer the question, "Now what?" Once our head, heart, and hands are working well together, we can move forward to develop consistent practices, regular rhythms, and routines that help us turn our knowledge, emotions, and actions into a way of life that honors God and draws people to Him!

They help us to make our faith an active part of our everyday lives, building spiritual disciplines that will sustain our faith and testimony over time. Without these habits, it is easy for the other areas to get out of sync and break down, and for us to lose sight of why we do what we do!



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WEEK 5

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

You may have heard the phrase, "Less is more." Or "You have to spend money to make money." Or even, "The only constant is change." These are all examples of a paradox - a statement or situation that seems absurd, self-contradictory, or defies logic, yet may contain a deeper truth. It comes from the Greek word *parádoxos*, which means unexpected or strange. A paradox can also be an opinion that conflicts with common belief, often challenging conventional thinking and forcing a re-evaluation of assumptions. One specific type of paradox is a veridical paradox, which produces a counterintuitive, surprising, or seemingly absurd result that, unlike other paradoxes, is proven to be undeniably true nonetheless. As G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "A paradox is often a truth standing on its head to get our attention."

Many of the things Jesus taught are a mystery to us, even seemingly illogical, but we find that they are actually examples of a veridical paradox. Jesus continually revealed the "upside-down" nature of the Kingdom of God, e.g.: the last shall be first; those who love life will lose it; the one who humbles himself will be exalted; we are to be in the world, but not of it; we are to

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love our enemies; we will find joy in our suffering. While these may all seem to be contradictions, they are actually complementary truths that give us a more complete picture of God and His nature and provide us with some of the most powerful evidence that our faith in Him is true. Worldly wisdom seems smooth, polished and logical, but it is inadequate in explaining reality. God is multi-faceted by nature. He is the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - too vast for our simple, finite, linear minds to fully understand! It is only as we encounter Christ and grow in Him that we can even begin to experience His godly wisdom, revealing His divine beauty and truth that is beyond comparison. In this week's study, we are reminded that we must focus on Kingdom values rather than worldly values, as we live in stark contrast to the world around us. Our focus should not be on "getting" or "doing", but on "being". While we cannot change our circumstances, we can change our outlook on life and how we relate to God and others. Our obedience may appear as foolishness to those around us, but we must remember that we live with eternity's values in sight as we live under His reign, allowing Him to reshape our values, priorities, and behavior from the inside out!

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Passages we'll review:

Luke 6:17-26

OPENING

If you were to ask a random person on the street to define a "blessed life", what are five things they would likely name?

DISCUSS

Read Luke 6:17-26

Following Jesus transforms how we define blessing, success, and obedience.

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HEAD- What do you understand?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How does Jesus redefine blessing in this passage?

NOTES

What contrasts stand out between kingdom values and cultural values?

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Why does Jesus emphasize obedience rather than admiration?

NOTES

Optional tie-in:

How does building on Jesus' words affect long-term faith?



HEART - What moves you?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

Which teaching challenges you the most and why?

How do Jesus' words confront your natural instincts?

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What emotions surface when obedience feels costly?

Helpful quote reflection:

How does grace motivate obedience differently than fear?

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HANDS - What will you do?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

**How can you intentionally practice
forgiveness or generosity this week?**

NOTES

What does building your life on Jesus' words look like in one real decision you'll make soon?

Where is Jesus calling you to respond differently than the culture around you?

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What is one relationship where you can reflect the grace and mercy Jesus describes in this passage?

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HABITS – Now what?

Choose 1 question and get specific.

What habit helps align your values with Jesus' kingdom?

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How can Scripture shape your daily decisions more consistently?

NOTES

Encourage each person to name one habit they will practice before the next meeting.

Kingdom living isn't about perfection. It's about direction.

"It is always so. Our choicest blessings invariably come to us by descending: our richest benefits come by going downward. We stoop to conquer. The farmer bows his face toward the earth both to sow the seed and to reap the harvest; the miner goes below for the precious things of the earth; the loveliest streams flow along the lowest valleys; the sweetest flowers flourish in the shadiest dells." F.W. Boreham

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PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Looking at Jesus' list today, where do you find yourself - among the "blessed" or those receiving "woes"?

NOTES

- **Jesus warns against seeking the approval of others. In what area of your life are you most tempted to prioritize popularity over truth?**
- **How does this passage challenge you to change your priorities for this week? What is one area of your life where you need to trust in the future promises of the Kingdom rather than demanding immediate satisfaction?**



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WEEK 6

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

READ

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DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

Faith is a word that we use often. It has several meanings, ranging from loyalty, allegiance to a duty or person, great trust or confidence in someone or something, a particular religion, or even a strong belief in God. While we use it casually in our everyday conversations, we don't always exhibit the true faith that Jesus taught about. Western "faith" is often based on intellectual belief alone. But the faith Jesus taught about is so much more than just belief. Even the demons believed in Jesus, but they didn't exhibit this faith! The Hebrew word for faith is emunah. It is not just a static noun; it's a dynamic verb that signifies active trust, faithfulness, and reliability. It is derived from the root word "aman," which was often used in relation to an artisan, craftsman, or practitioner. Just as people in these trades possess inborn talents and abilities that must be exercised and practiced daily in order to develop to their full potential, so it is with true faith. This faith isn't just a belief, but rather the decision to trust God with our lives as we align our lives to Him. It's believing that there is truth in what seems unbelievable, and trusting God completely, even when we don't understand.

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An acrostic for FAITH is: Forsaking All ITrust Him. Real faith isn't based on our own strength and ability. It develops as we place our confidence in what God says while holding on to the One who is faithful always! The centurion in Luke 7 commanded great respect from those around him, yet he realized that only Jesus had the authority and power to heal, even if from a distance. He trusted Jesus more than his own power and ability, even though he had never met Him face to face. Jesus had great compassion for those in need. He came to minister to the broken - those who realize they have nothing to offer, whose only hope is in Him alone, regardless of who they are - and He still does today! In this week's study, we see a surprising example of faith as a Gentile centurion approaches Jesus with humility and trust, revealing that faith is about surrender, not status. We, too, can exhibit true faith when we humbly recognize our need for His grace and trust that He can work in and around us.

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OPENING

When was the last time you were genuinely "amazed" or "marveled" by someone's actions or character?

NOTES

Who is someone whose word you trust completely, even if you don't see the results of what they promised right away?

DISCUSS

Read Luke 7:1-10

Jesus responds to humble faith with compassion and power.

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HEAD- What do you understand?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

Why does Jesus marvel at the centurion's faith?

NOTES

What does this passage teach about authority and submission?

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How does this moment expand who the **NOTES** kingdom includes?

NOTES

Optional tie-in:

How does humility shape genuine faith?

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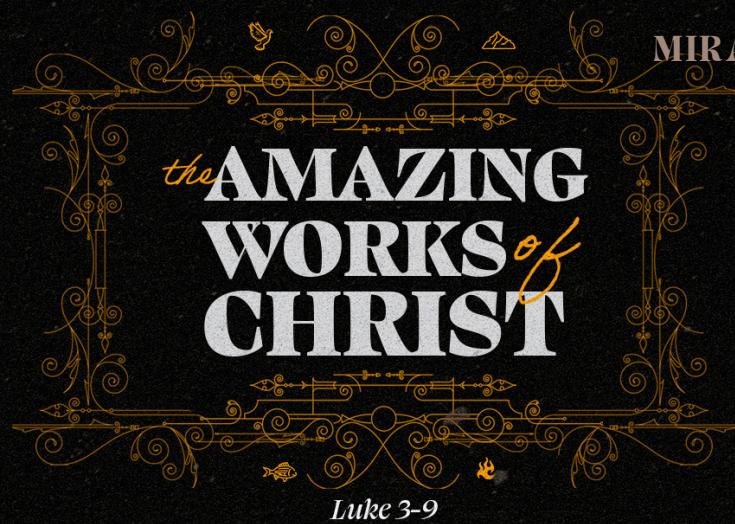
HEART – What moves you?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How does humility affect your approach to Jesus?

NOTES

Where do you struggle to trust Jesus' power or timing?



How does Jesus' compassion encourage you personally? **NOTES**

Helpful quote reflection:

How does surrender deepen faith?

HANDS - What will you do?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How can you approach Jesus with greater trust this week?

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Who can you intentionally pray for with **NOTES**
renewed faith?

What situation in your life requires trusting Jesus' word rather than your own understanding?

What practical step can you take to act in faith even if the outcome feels uncertain?

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HABITS – Now what?

Choose 1 question and get specific.

What habit could cultivate humility in prayer?

NOTES

How can faith become more active in your daily life?

Encourage each person to name one habit they will practice before the next meeting.

Faith grows when pride shrinks.

PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- **If Jesus were to evaluate your faith today, would He marvel at its greatness or be shocked by your lack of faith?**
- **Does your daily life reflect a great faith that trusts in the authority of Jesus' Word, or do you rely on your own perceived worthiness or strength?**
- **Where in your life do you need to redirect your faith toward Jesus alone? How can we encourage each other to keep Christ as the focus?**

"The centurion is a reminder to us that 'man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart' (1 Samuel 16:7). I think we will be surprised someday when Jesus doles out rewards. Most of the great ones among us will probably have lived in obscurity. Jesus is not as impressed with degrees and achievements as we are. He is impressed with those who really do humbly believe in Him."

(Jon Bloom)

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WEEK 7

WATCH

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READ

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DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

The Sea of Galilee is located in northeastern Israel in the Jordan Rift Valley and is a major source of drinking water for the nation. It is the lowest lying body of freshwater in the world, with its surface-level elevation at nearly 700 feet below sea level. It is fairly shallow, with a depth of about 200 feet, and creates a basin surrounded by hills that reach heights of up to 2000 feet. As a result, large pressure changes are created as strong winds come off of the mountains and funnel down to the sea, generating severe, sudden storms that can produce violent waves up to 20 feet high. These storms are difficult for larger boats to handle, but they can be especially treacherous for smaller vessels. As Jesus and His disciples sailed to the other side of the sea, they found themselves in the midst of one of these storms. As they faced the peril of the sea, they found themselves fearing for their lives. It was at this moment that they viewed Jesus as a bit of an enigma, unable to understand how He was sleeping unfazed by the storm surrounding them. Yet it is in this crisis that we discover a profound truth: "Faith must be tested before it can be trusted." (Warren Wiersbe) Head

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knowledge was not enough; it wouldn't be real to them until they put it into practice! Through this storm, Jesus expanded their faith in who He was and what He could do!

While we may not find ourselves stranded in a boat in the middle of a storm, we will encounter difficulties in the many storms of life. When we find ourselves in the midst of dire circumstances or difficulties that we do not understand, it can be easy to lose sight of God and be overcome by fear. We must remember that following Jesus means that we trust Him in the storms of life. Our faith in Him grows as we learn to obey Him, despite our feelings and the consequences that surround us. We may not always have calm waters and smooth sailing, but we can have faith that Jesus is bigger than any storm we will face. In this week's study, we see Jesus reveal His authority over creation itself. In the middle of chaos, we can find strength in knowing that Jesus commands the storms of life and that we can trust in Him, even when we face the fears and uncertainties of life.

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Passages we'll review:

Luke 8:22-25



OPENING

What is the worst storm you remember?

What made it so memorable?

NOTES

DISCUSS

Read Luke 8:22-25

Jesus rules over every storm and calls us to trust Him fully.

HEAD- What do you understand?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

What does Jesus' authority over nature reveal about His identity?

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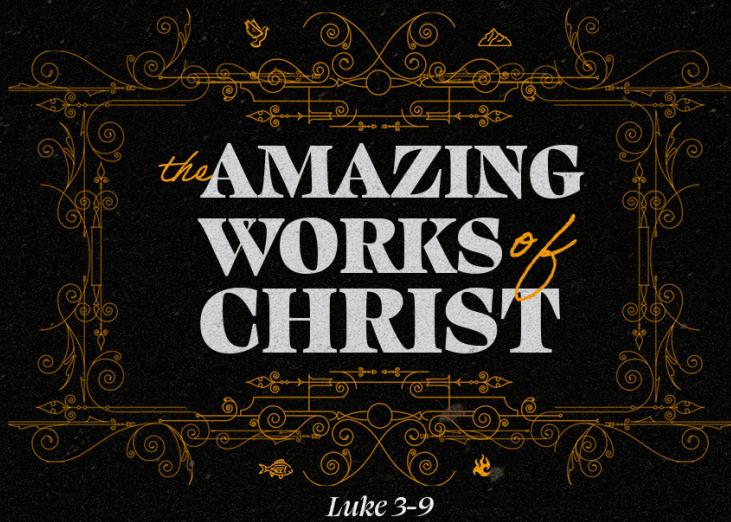
Luke 3-9

Why does Jesus question the disciples' faith?

NOTES

Optional tie-in:

How does fear distort perspective?



HEART – What moves you?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

NOTES

What storms threaten your peace right now?

How do fear and faith compete in your heart?

How does Jesus' calm presence speak to you?

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Helpful quote reflection:

How does trust reshape fear?

NOTES

HANDS - What will you do?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How can you intentionally respond to fear with trust this week?

What practical step can help you focus on Jesus instead of the storm around you?

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When anxiety rises, what action can remind you of Jesus' presence and authority?

NOTES

What does trusting Jesus look like for you in the middle of your current circumstances?

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HABITS – Now what?

Choose 1 question and get specific.

What rhythm anchors your faith during uncertainty?

NOTES

How can prayer become a place of peace?

Encourage each person to name one habit they will practice before the next meeting.

Faith isn't the absence of fear. It's choosing trust anyway.



PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- **Look at your own current “storm”. Are you trusting your own abilities to “steer the boat” or are you relying on the Master who is in the boat with you?**

NOTES

- **The disciples' response was due to their lack of faith. What practical steps can you take this week to take your eyes off the situation and demonstrate faith over fear as you remember what you know to be true about God?**
- **Storms in life are inevitable. How can you prepare now in order to be more ready to trust Him when the next one hits?**



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WEEK 8

WATCH

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READ

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DISCUSS

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BIG IDEA

NOTES

Life is full of opinions. Everyone has their own ideas of what is best, most valuable, or most praiseworthy. In the era of modern technology, you can find a myriad of social media influencers whose goal is to sway you one way or the other on almost any topic you can think of. Some opinions are based on reliable research and study. Others are based on fallacies, political views, or even personal opinions. If the opinion is not popular with "the masses", the influencer may be blacklisted, cancelled, or even worse, persecuted. Even when asking "What is life's most important question," there are many different opinions! If you were to do a search for "Who is Jesus," you would find a multitude of different ideas, both positive and negative.

But Jesus wasn't interested in the opinions of others. He knew that His earthly mission was more than just life itself. His purpose as our Messiah was radically different from what the world expected. As He prepared His disciples



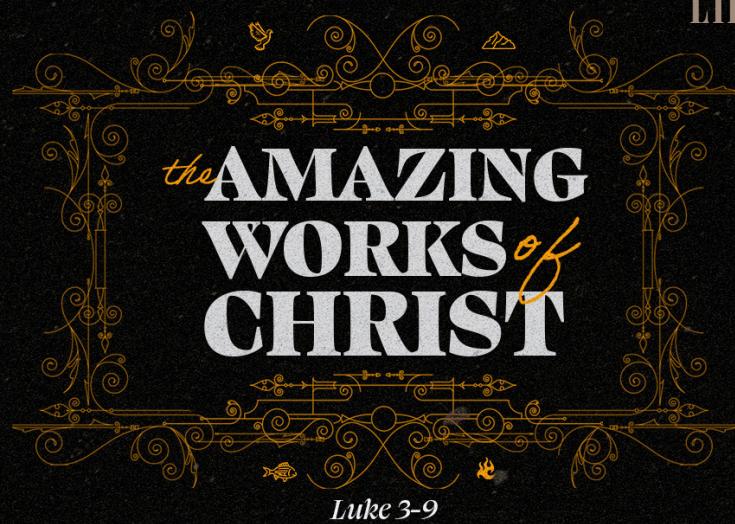
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for what was to come. He knew that one of the most important questions they needed to be able to answer was "Who do you say that I am?" Instead of a simple opinion, they would need to be able to answer with conviction who He truly was! In doing so, they would also have to understand that following Him meant identifying with Him completely, even to the point of death. The earthly price would be costly, but the eternal value would be well worth it all! In this week's study, we are asked that same question, "Who do you say He is?" Everything hinges on our response as we strive to take our eyes off of the world around us and follow Him, no matter the cost!

Passages we'll review:

Luke 9:18-22



OPENING

What is the first thing people usually assume about you when they first meet you?

NOTES

DISCUSS

Read Luke 9:18-22

Everything hinges on how you answer Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?"

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HEAD- What do you understand?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

Why does Jesus ask this question at this moment?

NOTES

How does He redefine what kind of Messiah He is?

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Why is suffering central to His mission?

NOTES

Optional tie-in:

How does this reshape expectations of faith?

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HEART – What moves you?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How would you answer Jesus' question personally?

NOTES

What emotions surface when following Jesus involves sacrifice?

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Where do you struggle with shallow views of faith?

NOTES

Helpful quote reflection:

How does clarity about Jesus lead to commitment?

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HANDS - What will you do?

Choose 1 or 2 questions.

How does your view of Jesus shape the decisions you make day to day?

NOTES

Where is Jesus inviting you to deeper
surrender right now?

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**What choice this week will reveal who Jesus
really is to you?**

NOTES

How can you live in a way that reflects your confession of who Jesus is, even when it costs you something?



HABITS – Now what?

Choose 1 question and get specific.

What habit helps you regularly confess and live out your faith?

NOTES

How can discipleship become a daily way of life?

Encourage each person to name one habit they will practice before the next meeting.

This is the hinge point. Everything flows **NOTES** from who Jesus is to you.

PRAY

Consider the following as you pray together:

- Our faith cannot be inherited from parents or picked up from others. Is your view of Jesus shaped by cultural trends and influence from others, or by a personal living confession that He is the Christ?
- True discipleship doesn't always lead to earthly comfort and worldly success, but rather "temporary" trials and sacrifices that lead to ultimate, eternal victory. Are you expecting an "easy" life without suffering, or are you prepared to follow Him no matter the cost?



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