

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"ROAD TRIP" | LUKE 9:46-9:62 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is a great destination for a road trip in our country?

"Shotgun and US versus Them" (Luke 9: 46-50)

Jesus' disciples are arguing over who is the greatest and concerned about others outside their group who are doing ministry, both showing self-centeredness, which Jesus corrects. **How does the desire to be great affect how people connect to God? Others?**

"Resolve for the Road and Rejection on the Road" (Luke 9: 51-56)

Jesus resolved to go to Jerusalem, which caused the Samaritans to reject Him, angering the disciples, but Jesus rebukes their anger. **What does Jesus' reaction show about Him? What does it show about issues the disciples (and us today) struggle with?**

"3 Requirements for the Road" (Luke 9: 57-61)

Jesus reacts to men delaying in following him by explaining committing to Him means leaving comfort and attachments behind without looking back and focusing on Him. **What about the cost of following Jesus is hard for you? Why?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus challenges His followers and the crowd in different ways, knowing they struggled with prejudice, pride and being attached to different people and possessions, which all prevent them from becoming more like Him. **What are you willing to give up to be closer to Jesus? What are ways to let that attitude or attachment go? Ask God to reveal more of what He wants you to do.**

Road Trip

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2-7 Lar: Men's. Fam Night. Ladies. Volunteer Opp. C@R. TY VBS.

II. Slide8 Intro: Road Trip

A. Just back from a week in O'side at a beach-house. So fun with our kids/grandkids.

1. Oceanside is close by for us, **but what was your favorite road trip as a child? How about as an adult?**
2. **The disciples** are *on a road trip* where they really don't understand their destination ... **yet! They will.**

B. **Prayer:** Lord, we find ourselves on a road-trip, journey, on mission, w/**You**.

C. **As a child what did you call (if you had siblings) when you wanted to ride upfront?**

Slide9 Shotgun! (when I hear the disciples fighting over who is the G.O.A.T., I hear, *Shotgun!*)

1. [term from bodyguard alongside stagecoach driver]

III. Slide10a **SHOTGUN! (46-48) READ**

A. Children are represented here as the *least useful* in society.

1. Other places we are challenged to *have faith like a child*, to see children as **an example** to follow.

2. Here it's used as ministering to a child, or taking care of their needs.

a) It's receiving the *least useful*, **or** serving the *least significant*, **or** *least able to contribute, least able to move you forward, that's the picture of greatness.*

b) **Slide10b** See, whenever there is trouble over *who is the greatest* it's actually a problem of *who is the least*.

(1) Bob Goff, in his book *Undistracted* said, *There are 2 kinds of people in the world those that are humble and those that are about to be.*

B. **Jesus re-orient their greatness.** Instead of thinking of greatness in the eyes of **the world** Jesus shifts this idea of greatness towards **the eyes of the Father**.

1. Jesus showed that true greatness comes from being *insignificant* in the eyes of the world. - *Love always stoops!*
2. *But is that enough for you?* Are you satisfied with the Lord God saying, *I am pleased with your service*, while the world is *not so* impressed?

IV. Slide11a **US VS. THEM (49,50)** *READ* rebukes there **tribalism**

A. So Jesus was saying, instead of trying to **be great** you should **be lowly**.

1. John misses it and says, *look at those guys over there, let's make sure we push them down*. [*sectarianism*, excessive attachment to a particular sect/party]

B. Slide11b **Greatness** and **territorialism** go hand-in-hand.

1. If my focus is my own name or for my ministry to be elevated, **do you know what the #1 threat to that is?** Somebody else that is doing something pretty cool, somebody else that has skills too.
2. **Calvary Murrieta**, we need to be a church that *celebrates* what the other churches in town are doing. **Rejoice** with them in their **victories**, or how they're growing, or specific ministries are expanding.
3. We must **rejoice** in the gospel going out in our valley, yes even when it's *different* than the way we would do it. It's about *how to love others who are not part of your special group!*

C. Note this is also about **insecurities**.

1. **Did you note what these "other guys" were doing?** Casting out demons ... the very thing that *they couldn't do* (that Andrew talked about last week, *vs.40*).
2. **So it's not that they're just doing ministry in Jesus' name, but maybe they're doing it better?**

D. Slide12 **We** are not the center of this mission, **Jesus** is!

1. And if **Jesus** is being exalted and our hearts are wrapped up in **Him**, we are excited about **Him** being exalted. **Even if** it's at *the church down the road, the ministry down the street, or the other Missions organization*.

2. All this reeks of them saying, *I just want to be great*, and Jesus replying, *but it's just not about you*.

V. Slide13a **RESOLVE FOR THE ROAD (51,52) READ**

- A. (51) When the days drew near for him to be taken up (ascension) - Jesus is not thinking, *“well I have no choice in this.”* No, He sets his face to go to Jerusalem.
1. Slide13b This is OT language like in Isaiah 50:7 *set my face like a Flint* (to fixate ones face on; orienting one's face firmly).
 2. On vacation we watched the **Documentary** called *The Rescue* that follows **the divers** who risked it all back in 2018, as the entire world watched as rescuers tried to save **12 kids and their coach** from **Tham Luang water cave** up in **Chiang Rai, Thailand**. (The major motion picture, *13 Lives* comes out July 29). [Professional Cave Divers & Thai Navy SEALs]
 - a) They *set their face* to rescue the 13 (took 18 days).

VI. Slide14a **REJECTION ON THE ROAD (53-56) READ**

- A. It's any, **us & them** scenario. (you know the Jews hated the 1/2 breed/Samaritans)
1. Slide14b What **racial bias** blinds you? What about **religious tribalism** that is blocking you in participating in the **unity** that Christ wants to accomplish? Where are your **political ideologies** superseding the call of God's call?
 - a) See it's not just Samaritans, it's us too.
- B. Jesus this morning is cutting right through **our little tribal village**. Will we welcome **Him** and let **Him** disrupt the old order, or will we hold on to those old systems?
- C. (54) **Then** in steps **the sons of thunder**, desiring to become **the sons of lightning**. *Those Samaritans said what?*
1. Imagine James & John's résumé: *Proficient in Microsoft office. Great with people. Fireballs from heaven available upon request.*
- D. Slide14c James, John ... that's no way to turn your **enemy** into a **friend**.

1. Some of you remember John & Lisa Gotz, missionaries to Belize. I remember when they 1st got to Belize they were told by many missionaries, *“don’t buy at the Supoul family’s shops, they don’t like missionaries & they hike up the prices.”* John turned to Lisa & said, *guess where we’re shoppin!* – They *paid extra* for a long time, *but* won their friendship & they became very good friends.

E. Here’s the problem, J&J were saying, *God judge now!*

1. Oh there will be time for *His judgment*, *but not now!*

2. *Remember*, Jesus has been trying to explain to them the road *He* was on. *I’m on the road of suffering, the road to the cross, the road to win souls to Him, not the road to bring judgment from Him.*

F. Note *Jesus* isn’t shocked by *rejection*.

VII. Slide 15a **3 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ROAD (57-62) READ**

A. [1] **NO HOME IN THIS WORLD** (57,58)

B. *Jesus had no home in this world.* He was on the way to *Jerusalem*. He was on the way to *Calvary*.

C. *Similarly we do not have a home here.* You may have a deed, you may have a mortgage, you may have a storage unit where you keep all your stuff, *but your home is not here.*

1. *You are a pilgrim on your way to somewhere else. We are just passing through, on Mission.*

D. Slide 15b [2] **NO DELAYING DISCIPLESHIP** (59,60)

E. *Burying his father*, many think *he had not died yet* (as they would usually bury the same day). Basically at his leisure, would become a disciple. *AKA, procrastination.*

1. This man was concerned with *the wrong funeral*, see *9:23*.

F. *The love of mother and father is not supreme.* In that **top-slot** of our lives is **love for God**.

1. It is obviously good to *love and honor mother and father*, but the greater good is **God Himself**.
- G. Let the *spiritually dead* bury the *physically dead*. Because only the *spiritually alive* can save the *spiritually dead*.
- H. We must be more about *resurrection* than **burial**.
- I. **Slide15c [3] NO LOOKING BACK** (61,62) this man's name was, *Johnny Mañana*
- J. His story was *tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow*. or I will but ...
1. This is where Jesus said, *You say goodbye and I say hello, hello, hello. I don't know why you say goodbye, I say hello.* (ok, maybe some one else said that)
 2. Jesus ask him, **Can you set your eyes in the right direction?**
 - a) See looking back is a **waste** of time, it **slows** you down, your path goes **crooked**. That blade must stay **level & steady**. Only by **looking ahead**, with eyes fixed on your **guiding marks**, can you get your job done.
 - b) So Jesus says, *fix your eyes ahead on Me, no turning back, no turning back.*
- K. **The cost?** Is just ... well, just everything.
1. **And we have to answer without delay.** It's a huge burden that we are **not strong enough for**, we are **not sufficient for**, it is **too great**.
 2. Yes, grip the plow in your hand, **but** when you do, you will then feel the grip of **His** hands *on your hands*.
- L. It's not an **easy** path, it's not a **simple** one, **but** everything we need for that journey is **found in Jesus**.
1. You **didn't** hear me say, **It's all up to you: like in reading your Bible every day, praying every day, & fasting & witnessing** (those are all good & imp).
 2. **But no. It's all up to Jesus:** So be fully satisfied in Christ, enjoy Jesus.
 3. It is about **His** accomplishments. **Reject the idea that it's all about you.**

M. Whatever you feel that you've left behind, or seemed too good to have passed up, leave it back there. *What is so good that is tethering you to this life?*

N. **Unbelievers:** you also can accept the invitation to *walk hand-in-hand with Jesus down this road*. Will you say yes this morning when **He** says, *follow me*. When **He** says, *will you put your hand on the plow*, when **He** says, *will you look forward to the kingdom of God and not in the rearview mirror of your personal kingdom on earth*. (I had a little Porsche 914 in college, and I bought a rearview mirror that went the whole length of the top of the windshield. I think people do the same today)

1. *What is so appealing in your rearview mirror?*

2. Or ask yourself, *Are you looking at the future in your rearview mirror???*

O. **Remember**, we never go alone Jesus always walks down the path with us.

1. Receive it **and** walk it.

P. *This is amazing grace this is unfailing love.*

Q. Keywords: disciple, judgment.