

## Luke 9:1-36

### The Answer to a Very Bad Situation

#### Learning Objectives

- Jesus is not a prophet, “good guy,” or just another religious leader—He’s the Messiah.
- Our response to knowing that Jesus is the Messiah should be radical and life changing.

#### Steps to Prepare (For Leaders)

- Read Luke 9:1-36
- Be prepared to discuss the areas in your life where you don’t treat Jesus like your Messiah.

#### Introduction

**Read Out Loud:** This study will look at who the people of Jesus’ day thought He was, who He really is, and how that should be radical and life changing for us as Christians.



Describe a time when you were rescued from a bad situation.

*Leader’s Note: Depending on your group, you may need to get the ball rolling here by sharing first.*

#### Read Out Loud: Luke 9:1-22 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, <sup>2</sup> and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. <sup>4</sup>

Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>5</sup> If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” <sup>6</sup> So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

<sup>7</sup> Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, <sup>8</sup> others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. <sup>9</sup> But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he tried to see him.

<sup>10</sup> When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, <sup>11</sup> but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

<sup>13</sup> He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

They answered, “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.” <sup>14</sup> (About five thousand men were there.)

But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." <sup>15</sup> The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. <sup>16</sup> Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. <sup>17</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

<sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

<sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

<sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

### Who is Jesus?

*Leaders' Note: You can also do this activity as a whole group if that's better for your group dynamics.*

**Read Out Loud:** Let's divide into groups of 2 or 3. After looking at the verses above, write in who each of the following people or groups of people thought or think Jesus might be. Gather back together as a large group and share your answers:

Herod:	People in Jesus' Culture (vs. 19):
People in our Culture:	Peter:

? Whose viewpoint do you identify with the most?

*Possible Answers: Answers will vary.*

? Why do you think people followed Jesus to the secluded place? What were they looking for?

*Possible Answers: Looking for healing, looking for fulfillment, looking to be saved, following this prophetic power to see what happens.*

? Why do you follow Christ?

*Answers will vary.*

? Optional: Are you surprised that Jesus was concerned about feeding the crowd? Why did Jesus make it a point to meet the crowd's physical needs?

*Possible Answers: In meeting the physical needs of the people through miracles, Jesus was demonstrating His spiritual authority. This would have encouraged the people to listen to the ways Jesus wanted to meet their spiritual needs as well. It also may have been the case that without meeting the physical needs of the people, they would have been too concerned with those needs (e.g. illness, hunger, etc.) to address their spiritual needs.*

? What does Jesus' response to Peter's declaration (vv. 20-22, that Jesus is the Messiah) tell us about what it really meant to be the Messiah?

*Possible Answers: The perception people had of who the Messiah would be was likely associated with a political leader who would restore the Jewish political system. Jesus does not disagree with Peter, but He qualifies His response by describing what He was actually on earth to do.*

*Leader's Note: Depending on how much your group has talked about this in past weeks (and how many new people you have), you may be able to just highlight this as 'recap' question. For instance, "We talked a lot over the past few weeks about how Jesus was a different type of Messiah from what the Jews expected. Can someone briefly summarize how He was different?"*

? Webster defines Messiah as "A person who is expected to save people from a very bad situation."

We don't always treat Jesus like our Messiah. What things do we turn to in our "very bad situations" other than Christ?

*Possible Answers: We may turn to our friends, families, spouses, or rely on our own strength. We think if we work hard enough, or follow the rules well enough, we will get out of bad situations. We may turn to worldly pleasures (drugs, alcohol, promiscuity) to help save us.*

### **Read Out Loud: Luke 9:23-36 (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

<sup>27</sup> "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. <sup>31</sup> They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup> Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup> As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for

us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

<sup>34</sup> While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” <sup>36</sup>

When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

**?** Why is it important that God calls Jesus His Son?

*Possible Answers: It validates who Jesus is, giving Him authority and solidifying the fact that He is the Messiah the Jewish people have been waiting for.*

**?** We know that Jesus is the Messiah, but how should (or does) that knowledge translate into our daily lives? Do we always respond/act that way or believe that it is true?

*Possible Answers: We should let Him save us from our very bad situations. We should live our lives to glorify Him. Look to verses 23-26 for guidance in answering this question.*

#### **For Discussion and Accountability**

**?** What areas of your life do you need to “lose” (vs. 24)?

**?** In what ways does and doesn’t your life reflect a true belief that Jesus is your Messiah?