

## Small Group Materials: Luke 9:37-62

### *Time to Reprioritize?*

#### Study Summary and Learning Objectives

This study focuses on following Jesus wholeheartedly through making sacrifices, shifting our priorities, and not delaying our obedience to Him.

#### Objectives

- Understand why it's worth surrendering our wants or comfort to follow Christ and give Him our all.
- Consider the cost of following Jesus as well as the eternal rewards that faith in Him produces.
- Reflect on how we are prioritizing our lives. Is Christ first?

#### Steps to Prepare for Leaders

- Read the last 25 verses of Luke 9.
- Consider your priorities, and if/how you make the Lord a priority in your life. Let your group know what this looks like for you and what your journey has been in this area. Some may not even be aware that they can prioritize their life in a way to give Christ precedence in all areas.

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#### Icebreaker Question(s)

*Leader's Note: You know your group dynamics best! Please choose one of the two following questions to open your study, depending on what you think will go over well.*

**?** Think of a time where you've had to give something up in order to focus on something else. What did you give up? Was it hard?

*Possible Answers: Hanging out with friends to do homework, giving up a trip or buying something fun to save for something greater, etc.*

*Leaders, be prepared to share an example of something you've had to give up.*

OR

**?** If your house was on fire, what would you grab (besides your family and pet)?

*Possible Answers: Family photo albums, purse, money, technology, expensive jewelry, etc.*

#### Read Out Loud: Luke 9:37-62 (with a focus on verses 57 - 62) (NIV)

<sup>37</sup> On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the

mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him.<sup>40</sup> And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.”<sup>41</sup> Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.”<sup>42</sup> While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.<sup>43</sup> And all were astonished at the majesty of God.

But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples,<sup>44</sup> “Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.”<sup>45</sup> But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

<sup>46</sup> An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest.<sup>47</sup> But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side<sup>48</sup> and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.”

<sup>49</sup> John answered, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.”<sup>50</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you.”

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.<sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him.<sup>53</sup> But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.<sup>54</sup> And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?”<sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them.<sup>56</sup> And they went on to another village.

**<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”<sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”<sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”<sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”<sup>61</sup> Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.”<sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

### Questions for Discussion

Optional Transition: As we see in this passage, Jesus lived a radical life that was counter-cultural and far from what many considered “normal.”



Why did the Son of Man have nowhere to lay his head? Why would Jesus say this to the man who wanted to follow Him?

*Possible Answers: Jesus didn't have possessions or a home so that He wouldn't be bound down while carrying out His plans on Earth. He was warning the man that following Him would mean hardship and would require faith.*

? In vs. 59, a man says he'll follow Jesus but first wants to bury his father. If the man's father had died, he would have already been busy with burial duties. It's more likely that he wanted to wait until after his father passed away (which could have been years) before following Jesus. What kinds of hesitations do you think he might have had? Why did Jesus rebuke his answer?  
*Possible Answers: He may have been valuing home and family even more than God. Perhaps he was scared to leave what was comfortable or familiar. Jesus rebuked his answer because following Christ is the ultimate call. He wants us to follow Him wholeheartedly, without delay.*

"The man was caught between a struggle between right and right. It was a good thing to hang around for his father, but it wasn't the *best* thing, and service of the second best at the expense of the first best can result in ruin."

-David Guzik, [Guzik Bible Commentary](#)

? Has there been a time in your life when it's been difficult to follow Jesus because of distractions, hardships, or even because of other good opportunities? What did that look like?  
*Possible Answers: Death/illness of a friend or family member, financial struggles, work opportunities, travels, etc.*

? How can you know what God's direction is and obey Him?  
*Possible Answers: Spend time with Jesus to know His direction, pray and ask others to pray for you. Trusting Christ helps us obey--He has our best interest in mind and His plans are bigger than ours.*

? Why is it a bad thing for a farmer to look back while plowing a field? How does that analogy apply to following Jesus?  
*Possible Answers: "While plowing a field in that day, a farmer kept the rows straight by focusing on an object in front of them, off in the distance (such as a tree). If the farmer started to plow, and kept looking behind, he would never make straight rows and do a good job plowing. In our Christian life, we keep our eyes on Jesus in front of us, and never take our eyes off Him."--David Guzik, Guzik Bible Commentary*

? Why is it worth following Jesus wholeheartedly?  
*Possible Answers: Following Jesus may be radical but it changes your everyday life completely, gives you eternal perspective, you are being obedient which is what Christ calls us to, fruit of the Spirit will be evident in your life, etc.*

? Have you ever put off following Christ in something because of fear or selfishness? Or, on the other hand, have you ever responded quickly despite your hesitations and seen God work in amazing ways?

*Leaders' Note: Please ask these questions separately (vs. reading them all off together) so that you can discuss them independently first.*

**?** Is there a sacrifice God is calling you to make in order to follow Him more wholeheartedly? What might result from making those sacrifices?

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

**?** What area of your life might need re-prioritizing? What steps can you take to do so?