

# Luke 9:18-36

## Who Do YOU Say That Jesus Is?

**Scripture:** Luke 9:18-36

**Memory Verse:** Luke 9:35 “And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’”

**Lesson Focus:** Beginning in this passage of Luke’s gospel there is a shift away from the ministry of miracles into a sharper focus on Jesus’s identity and mission. With Jesus making His case for being the unique Son of God so far, now we must decide whether we will actually follow Him. And how can we not once we understand Who He is? This lesson will also make the case challenging the kids to be “IN” with Jesus.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Jesus with Moses & Elijah, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Jesus Transfigured

**Starter Activity:** Luke Review Quiz

Consider getting the lesson started by taking the kids through a review quiz of some of the prominent teachings and miracles we have covered in Luke so far. Below are several TRUE-FALSE statements from the last several weeks. \*

- 1) John the Baptist’s mission was to get people ready for Jesus. **TRUE**
- 2) Before Jesus began His ministry, He was tempted by the devil in the desert. **TRUE**
- 3) While in the desert, the devil tricked Jesus into committing a sin. **FALSE**
- 4) Jesus was a fisherman before He began His ministry. **FALSE**
- 5) Peter was a fisherman before He began following Jesus. **TRUE**
- 6) The Pharisees \* believed in Jesus after He healed the man who couldn’t walk. **FALSE**
- 7) Jesus never prayed, because He was the Son of God. **FALSE**
- 8) Jesus said that we should treat others the way we want to be treated. **TRUE**
- 9) Jesus said blessed are those who are rich and famous \*, they will be satisfied. **FALSE**
- 10) Jesus was too busy to care for people in need like widows. **FALSE**
- 11) Jesus wants our hearts to be like good soil which hear and keep His word! **TRUE**
- 12) Jesus calmed the raging storm by just speaking a word. **TRUE** \*
- 13) After Jesus healed the man controlled by demons, the local people rejoiced. **FALSE**
- 14) Jesus fed about 5000 people from 2 loaves of bread and 5 fish. **FALSE** (5 loaves/2 fish!)
- 15) Jesus did and said marvelous things so that people would believe/trust in Him. **TRUE**

We’ve seen Jesus say and do many remarkable things so far in the book of Luke! \* But moving forward in Luke, there is a shift. Jesus has adequately “made His case” for being the God-man and Messiah. So as we continue we will see fewer miracles and instead learn more about who Jesus is, why He came, and what it looks like to truly follow Him.

## Bible Study:

**Luke 9:18:** It appears that Jesus is alone with His disciples having a “campfire chat” \* when He drops an important question.

Q: Do you like to gather around the campfire with those you are closest to? This is what it must have been like following Jesus and getting away from the crowds!

While Jesus has gotten the attention of these crowds with his signs and wonders, do they actually understand who He is?

**Luke 9:19:** Not really! The people have favorable opinions about Jesus, but none of them put Him where He belongs: ON TOP! \* It’s the same story today if you ask unbelievers the same question. Most will say He is a good teacher or a holy man, but nothing more.

**Luke 9:20:** But then He looks the disciples right in the eye and asks them the same question! And Peter rightly answers that He is the Rescuer, the God-man (**Matthew 16:16**)! \* Well, guess what: Jesus asks you the same question!

Q: Who do YOU say that Jesus is? If you think He is only a good teacher or a cool guy in a white robe, you are trusting in a fairy tale. But if you believe Him to be who He said He was, God the Son, that makes Him your King! And that means He makes the rules! \*

Peter and the disciples are probably “flying high” with Jesus right now at this height of His miracle ministry. \* But Jesus is going to bring them “back down to earth” with what He says next.

**Luke 9:21-22:** What? Jesus says He must \* suffer, be rejected, and even killed? Imagine being at the “campfire” with Jesus after a day of “flying high” with Him working miracles and silencing His enemies only to then hear Him say this. How puzzling it must have been! (see **Luke 9:44-45** also) \* But Jesus doesn’t stop there!

**Luke 9:23:** He now presents the mark of the true disciple or follower of Him: self-denial.

Q: What does it mean to deny yourself? A: Saying NO to self \* so you can say YES to Jesus and to the needs of others (**Philippians 2:4-5** \*). **Teachers:** Consider presenting these (or add your own!) situations and ask the kids what each is saying “YES” to:

- Your Mom says it is time to get up and get ready for school, but you stay in bed
- Your brother wants to play and you put your video game down and go outside with him
- You cry and complain because your sister got a larger slice of pumpkin pie than you

**Luke 9:24-25:** Jesus’s teaching of self-denial is not easy and very unpopular, but it is true! \* The more selfish we get, the more miserable we become. So many rich and famous people who “gain the whole world” sadly admit that they are NOT happy! \*

**Luke 9:26:** Jesus wants to know if you’re IN or OUT! If you’re IN, He expects you to bravely stand with Him and follow His example of thinking of yourself less. But if you’re OUT, it will not end well for you! If you are ashamed of Him now, He will be ashamed of you when He returns!

Now before we continue, we must say something very important. We are saved or “get IN” not by denying ourselves, but by trusting and believing in Jesus’s death and resurrection for our sins. And it is only after we first become children of God by faith, that we then **grow** as disciples who love Jesus by practicing self-denial more and more.

**Luke 9:27-28:** This might have been a hard message for the disciples so Jesus now takes the three most prominent one’s up on a mountain where they are going to be given a foretaste of what they are in for. \* This is an even more intimate “campfire” experience with Jesus and I’d like you to imagine yourself there!

**Luke 9:29:** Jesus is the eternal Son of God who willingly stepped down from glory to become a man. This glory has been veiled throughout His earthly life but in this moment His glory is revealed further demonstrating He is who He says He is: The God-man.

**Luke 9:30-31:** Wow! Moses and Elijah, two of the most prominent figures in the Old Testament appear and start talking with Jesus about His prophesied death and resurrection. This would have confirmed Jesus’s identity and mission for the disciples who were probably still puzzled that Jesus was going to suffer, die, and rise again.

**Luke 9:32:** Yet they were sleeping through a lot of this! You have probably slept through some pretty cool things before, but this is something that you wouldn’t want to miss!

**Luke 9:33-34:** Poor Peter is confused \* and just seems to start babbling on as this mysterious cloud comes and surrounds them. He is also mistaken as He appears to think that Jesus is just another prophet like Moses and Elijah. But He is so much more!

**Luke 9:35-36:** Whoa! God the Father speaks from the cloud, interrupts Peter, and confirms what we have seen all throughout the gospel of Luke so far: That Jesus is the God-man! He is not just another prophet, but the promised Son of God. \*

Q: But what else did God the Father say?

A: Hear Him. Listen to Him! Keep His word!

It didn’t happen right away, but Peter and the other disciples eventually learned how to listen and keep Jesus’s word. **Read 2 Peter 1:16-18.** Years later, Peter reflects on this experience and challenges believers in his letter to also “keep His word”.

**Key Point:** Peter would say the same to you today. Jesus is the God-man. His way is the ONLY way. Listen to Him and keep His word!

Boys and Girls: I’ll ask again: Are you IN with Jesus or OUT?

If you are **IN:** Hear His Word! Join Him around the “campfire”! Remember He said that if you wish to follow Him, you are to think of yourself less. Ask Him to help you do that this week and grow as a disciple of Jesus!

If you are **OUT:** Let me read **Luke 9:26** again. Are you sure this is how you want to enter into “forever”? Consider joining Jesus’s team today!

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 9:23  
What does Jesus expect of His followers?

Parent Signature:  
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Parent Challenge:  
Who was with Jesus on the mountain?

Read Luke 9:35  
How can you better listen to Jesus?

