

**Following Jesus – Recalibrate your priorities!
Luke 9:57-62**

Luke 9:57-62 is a clear call to put Jesus first in our lives, to surrender to him as Lord of our lives, for him to be our top priority. Sometimes we can fall into the trap of treating Jesus more like a personal assistant, or even just as our saviour, but not as our Lord.

1. Perhaps share in your group whether you find it easier to see Jesus as Lord, or Jesus as saviour? How have you found yourself leaning more one way than the other?

In the three people that Jesus meets we see three different responses to Him:

- The first desires to follow Jesus, but has little understanding of what he is getting himself into. Following Jesus requires giving up the security and possessions of this world, and being willing to take up the cost of truly following Jesus.
- The second desires to follow Jesus 'but first' wants to fulfill societal and cultural expectations by attending to the duties of a son. Following Jesus means putting him before such cultural expectations.
- The third desires to follow Jesus 'but first' wants to farewell his family. Following Jesus must come even before our families.

2. Which of these do you identify with? The pull of family, culture, or the cost of the sacrifice to follow Jesus?

In this passage, Jesus is setting a new expectation. That his disciples should put him first. They should be focused on following Jesus and proclaiming the 'Kingdom of God'. The Kingdom of God is a holistic term, that includes word and deed, that both demonstrates and proclaims the rule and reign of God through King Jesus over this world.

3. How would you explain the message of the Kingdom of God to others? What scripture do you use to construct that message? How do you see this linked to what comes next in Luke 10?

Jesus illustrates the type of determined focus he needs in his followers by using the image of the farmer ploughing the field. The field needs to be ploughed straight, and the farmer needs to concentrate so that he doesn't hit any rocks, or break the plough.

4. What would this sort of determined focus look like in your life as you seek to follow Jesus?

Across the past three weeks as we have journeyed through Luke 9 it is clear that God calls us to have a know who we are, as his disciples, and understand and know the great love he has for us. If you haven't heard the previous two week's sermons please listen to the online.

5. Look back over Luke 9. What has God used in this chapter to impact your life over the past three weeks? What is one area you need to spend some time thinking and reflecting on?

As we seek to prioritise following Jesus in our lives, Tim Keller suggests it is “not just about bending your will, but melting your heart into a new shape”. By this he means, that there is only so much we can do by our own strength, and we need to let God, through his Spirit so transform and shape our hearts that our priorities are His priorities.

6. How can spending time in God’s word, time listening to his Spirit, and time with his people help us here? What do we need to focus on this week? What do we find most helpful to grow our love and desire for God? How will this help us prioritise him in our lives?

It’s important as disciples to understand that we don’t follow Jesus because of our own strength, or through our own will or cleverness. We are followers of Jesus because of his grace demonstrated to us. We need to understand that God offers forgiveness to us when we get our priorities around the wrong way, and God expects us to offer the same grace and forgiveness to others.

7. If you look at 9:51-56 how do you see the disciples and/or Jesus responding to others? Who demonstrates grace? How is the demonstration of grace a sign of someone who sits under the Lordship of Christ? Is there someone you need to be demonstrating God’s grace to this week?

In reflection, as you look back over the past three weeks:

8. What is one thing God has been speaking into your life?
9. What will you do in response to this.

Gather and spend time in your groups and community praying for one another, and specifically for your responses to questions 8 & 9.

If you have any questions about the materials or have follow up questions, please email Bree Mills, b.mills@gwac.org.au