



FLIPPED:

JESUS TURNS CONVENTIONAL WISDOM UPSIDE DOWN

Luke 9:18-26

Week of April 30, 2023

Start at 9:45-9:55

Belong: *Use 5-10 minutes as an opportunity to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and to know the group members.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, Thinking over the past week, what's one thing you would have done differently?

How has God revealed Himself to you this week?

9:55-10:05

Believe: *Use 5-10 minutes to read this week's assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that helps you to understand the passage better. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Over the next several weeks, we will be spending time looking at the paradoxes of Jesus. A paradox is defined as: statements that on the surface run against conventional wisdom but then reveal a deeper truth. In these paradoxes, Jesus takes conventional wisdom and turns it on its head. For His church, these teachings help us to define the economy of the Kingdom of God as well as the essence of the ministry of Jesus. ***The challenge for us is not to look inward for understanding, but to look outward at Jesus, to see Him, to learn from Him, to come to Him, and then to emulate what He teaches to us.***

Have a group member read **Luke 9:18-26** aloud - Paradox of lose your life to save it.

10:05-10:20

Build: *Use about 15 minutes to engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning.*

In **Luke 9:18-20**, Jesus asked His disciples a question:

- "Who do the crowds say that I am?"
 - Why do you think the crowds did not fully understand who Jesus was? (**Luke 9:18-19**)
 - What are some ways people get Jesus' identity wrong today?

Then, He asked His disciples, "...who do you say that I am?"

- How did they respond? And, why is this important?

Why would Jesus' words in **Luke 9:22** have come as a shock to the disciples?

- What is the significance of the word "must" in **Luke 9:22**?

How does the description of following Jesus in **Luke 9:23-26** differ from what the disciples may have been expecting?

10:20–10:35/40

Become: Use about 15 minutes to apply what you have read. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?

What could it look like for you personally to “deny yourself and take up your cross daily” to follow Jesus? **(Luke 9:23)**

How does the world entice you to live the self-centered life?

- How does the giving up the right to self-determination counter those temptations?

When Luke was writing this passage, Christians were being martyred for the gospel by the Roman emperor Nero. They would have understood exactly what this passage meant. Has the meaning changed for the church today? Explain

Compare these sayings:

- “The **safe life** must be put to death.”
- And, “The **safest place** to be is in the middle of God’s will.”
 - What is the definition of **safe** in each case?

Do you believe that Jesus will satisfy your needs? Why or why not?

Discuss this quote: “*In fact, every command of Jesus is a call to die.*” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

10:35/ 10:40 – Class ends at 10:45

Begin: Use the last 5–10 minutes for prayer. It’s important that we not only hear and discuss God’s Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)

Do you see any of God’s attributes in this week’s passage that struck out to you? How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

Additional Resources:

Blue Letter Bible: Luke 9: Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: Luke 9: Check out the QR code to learn more.

