

## The Discipler's Commentary

### Answer Outline for the Discipler

#### Luke 9

9:1-6 – Jesus sends out the twelve apostles and gives them power and authority

- *It will be important for the discipler to explain the difference between having point and having authority.*
- *Have the disciple define what was the primary mission of the twelve. (It was not healing and casting out demons; it was “to proclaim the kingdom of God.” Power and authority were given to them to help them do their job.)*
- *Make sure the disciple knows what the response of the twelve was in regard to those who out-and-out rejected them.*
- *It will be important for the discipler to help the disciple make personal application to this event. In other words, how is God speaking to the disciple through this event?*

9:7-9 – The perplexity over Jesus by King Herod

- *The discipler might want to have the disciple look up Malachi 4:5-6 to completely understand this passage.*
- *If the disciple doesn't know already, explain the different views of the Pharisees and the Sadducees concerning resurrection. (The Pharisees believed in resurrection; the Sadducees did not. A clever way to remember the difference is the saying, “That's so sad, you see” for Sadducee.)*

9:10-17 – The feeding of the five thousand; key words are “You give them something to eat!”

- *Have the disciple speculate on how the twelve might have been responded to Jesus when they returned from their mission (9:10-11). (Most likely, they would have been super excited with lots of stories to tell.)*
- *Have the disciple explain in his or her own words the story of the feeding of the five thousand. Help the disciple understand the meaning of the “bread” and “fish,” and what they represent. Also, explain why there were twelve baskets full left over, and what that represents.*
- *Make sure the disciple can make personal application to this event; that it is not just a nice story about Jesus, but a lesson for all disciples of Jesus Christ.*

9:18-22 – Jesus queries the disciples on His identity, and informs them that He must suffer

- *As an interesting exercise, have the disciple describe what people today say who Jesus is. That is, “He was a great teacher,” “He was the founder of a religion called Christianity,” “He was a great prophet,” or “He was an angel.” Now ask, “But who do you think Jesus was?”*
- *Have the disciple speculate on why Jesus told His disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ (aka the Messiah).*
- *Have the disciple speculate on how Peter came up with the answer that Jesus was the Christ.*
- *Make sure the disciple understands that this is the first time Jesus informs His disciple that He must suffer and “be killed.” Help the disciple understand why the twelve would have had a hard time accepting that information from Jesus. What were the disciples expecting the Messiah would do?*
- *It's very important for the disciple to understand that our expectations of Jesus and God may be entirely different from what God's plan actually is.*

9:23-27 – Jesus' call for sacrificial discipleship

- *Help the disciple to see the relationship in theme and thought between verse 22 and verses 23-26. What is the relationship between Jesus suffering and the call of the disciple to suffer? Make sure the disciple knows the difference between suffering and sacrifice. (Not all of Christ's disciples are called to suffer, but all are called to sacrifice.)*
- *The disciple may have difficulty interpreting verse 27. Explain from the commentary.*

9:28-36 – Jesus takes Peter, James and John on the mountain, the transfiguration

- *The Transfiguration is an important event for the disciple to understand. The discipler will need to explain the importance of Moses and Elijah in regard to the Law and the Prophets. The disciple may not be aware of the fact that Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land when he led the Israelites out of Egypt, but now is with Jesus in the Promised Land. Ask the disciple how that relates to resurrection.*
- *Have the disciple attempt to describe why Peter wanted to build three tabernacles, and how that could have fed into sinful man's tendency to worship idols.*
- *Inform the disciple that this is the second time the voice of the Father has been recorded. Where was the first? (At Jesus' baptism.)*

9:37-45 – Jesus casts out a demon that the disciples could not; He chastises them for their unbelief

- *Ask the disciple to describe what happened when Jesus, Peter, James and John came down off the mountain of Transfiguration.*
- *In verse 41, make sure that the disciple understands that the NASB translation "perverted" does not have sexual connotations as it does in American culture. The term basically means "twisted," "distorted," or "not thinking correctly."*
- *Ask the disciple why he or she thinks Jesus chastised His disciples for their unbelief.*

9:46-48 – The argument over which one of the disciples is greatest; Jesus instructs them with a child

- *Have the disciple speculate on why the disciples started arguing as to who would be "greatest." What did they have in mind about their expectations of Jesus? Have the disciple relate verse 46 with the previous verses, 44-45. What's the relationship?*
- *What example did Jesus use to help the disciple understand the lesson about greatness? What lesson should the disciple walk away with concerning Jesus' teaching on "least" and "great"?*

9:49-56 – The turning point in Luke's gospel: Jesus is determined to go to Jerusalem

- *Have the disciple read verses 49-50. What is the key phrase in verse 49? (Hint: "in Your name....") The discipler may want to point out to the disciple the power of Jesus' name, especially when it comes to spiritual warfare and the issue of demonic influences.*
- *Have the disciple read verse 51. Ask why this is such an important observation by Luke about Jesus' ministry.*
- *The discipler may have to explain to the disciple the whole issue of bitterness between the Jews and the Samaritans, and why the latter did not want Jews traversing their territory on the way to Jerusalem.*
- *Have the disciple describe the reaction of the disciples to the rejection by the Samaritans, and why Jesus rebuked them on that suggestion. Explain that Jesus' rebuke of the disciples' suggestion to destroy the Samaritans has a great effect on them when the church begins to grow. (See Acts 8:4-17.)*

9:57-62 – Jesus' instruction on what it means to follow Him

- *Have the disciple describe the three people that stated they wanted to become a part of Jesus' ministry. What were two excuses that people gave for not immediately following Jesus? How does that apply to reasons people give today for not following Jesus?*
- *For those who chose not to follow Jesus, what great events did they miss? (The crucifixion and resurrection, and 50 days later, Pentecost.)*
- *Have the disciple explain the meaning of Jesus' statement to each of the three persons, two of whom came up with excuses not to follow Jesus. What does Jesus mean when He says:*
  - *"...the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head"?*
  - *"Allow the dead to bury their own dead"?*
  - *"No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God"?*
- *Ask the disciple if he or she is making any excuse for not being "sold out" to following Jesus.*