

## **LIFE Group Sermon Questions**

The Center of Everything: The Cross

Pastor Josh Parsons

May 10, 2026

Luke 9:21-27



**THE ORCHARD**

### **Sermon Outline**

#### I. The cost of discipleship

- a. Self-denial (Luke 9:23)
- b. Suffering (Luke 9:23)
- c. Submission (Luke 9:23)

#### II. The gain of discipleship

- a. A Savior (Luke 9:24)
- b. Your soul (Luke 9:24-25)
- c. Salvation (Luke 9:26)

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn't know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?
  
2. In your own words, why does Jesus sometimes tell his disciples *not* to tell others who he really is (like in Luke 9:21)? Compare Luke 9:21 with Acts 1:8. Why does Jesus tell his disciples to remain silent in the former and go be his witnesses in the latter?
  
3. Which of the three "costs" of discipleship do you think turns people away from following Jesus most: self-denial, suffering, or submission? Why? Which is hardest for *you*?
  
4. In what area of your life do you need to deny yourself for the sake of Christ?
  
5. What's the difference between suffering as a person living in a sinful world and suffering on account of your belief in Jesus?
  
6. What command of Jesus is hardest for you to obey? Where do you find it most difficult to submit to Christ?
  
7. How is it helpful to know that Jesus walked the path of Luke 9:23 first?

8. Why does it matter that those who believe in Jesus *get* Jesus? What if we only “got” salvation without that relationship?

9. Why do you think a person’s life/soul is so valuable in the eyes of Jesus (see [Luke 9:24-25](#))? How might you help someone else think about the value (and state!) of their soul more than they do?

10. In [Luke 9:26](#), Jesus is speaking about the person who wholly rejects him as Savior and Lord. Do you know anyone like that? How might this verse motivate your prayers for that person?

11. How would you encourage someone who’s struggling to follow Jesus?

12. What have you found to be the best part of following Jesus so far?