

# RockPointe Church Small Groups

## Kingdom Moments Sermon Series

Lesson one- Faithful Stewards – God at Work- Fall, 2019

**Luke 9:10-27; Matthew 6:31-34**

### MAIN POINT

Jesus is at work in the world and is calling us to follow Him in that work.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Do you enjoy do-it-yourself projects? Why or why not?**

**Have you ever had a project go badly? What happened?**

**Think about a time when you worked on a project or task that you were certain God was calling you to do. Did you have a complete understanding of why God wanted you to do it? How did you grow in your understanding of what He wanted you to do?**

Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20 that God is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or even think according to His power at work within us, but this isn't a do-it-yourself kind of project. Instead, these great and unimaginable things God wants to do require us to recognize what He is doing and join Him in His work. But before we can do that, we must understand just who Jesus is and what following in His footsteps requires.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Luke 9:10-17.

**How do you think the disciples felt when the crowd showed up?**

**What is the difference between Jesus' response and the disciples'?**  
**What does each response reveal about their character?**

**How did the disciples propose to solve the problem of the hungry people? What did their proposal show about their understanding of who Jesus was?**

No matter where Jesus and His disciples went, crowds followed. At this point in their travels, the disciples had just returned from being sent out by Jesus to do ministry. They

had been working hard, and their journey had been long. Note that the disciples had just returned from a mission in which they practiced divine power—given to them by Jesus to meet people’s needs—but now they seemed oblivious to the possibility that He could provide food where little or none existed. When faced with the crowd, a supernatural solution never crossed their minds. But Jesus is in the business of doing the impossible to glorify God.

**Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to give the people something to eat?**

**Why do you think Jesus provided more than enough for everyone to be filled up? What does that show us about who Jesus is?**

**In what ways is our church taking seriously Jesus’ concern for others and reaching more people in His name? How can we (as individuals and as a group) join in what our church is doing? In what other areas can we serve and share?**

**What circumstances today tempt us to limit Jesus?**

The disciples weren’t responsible for the miracle; they were simply responsible for giving Jesus what they had and trusting Him with the rest. God is glorified when His people trust Him to do more than they can imagine with what they give.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Luke 9:18-27.

**How would you respond if Jesus asked you the same question He asked His early disciples: “Who do the crowds say that I am?”**

**Why was the disciples’ answer not a sufficient one for Jesus? Why do you think He asked the additional question, “Who do you say that I am?” Why do we have to be able to answer that question to join Jesus in His work in the world?**

Opinions still abound about who Jesus is. If we truly want to see God do more than we can imagine, we must first understand who He is, because what He wants to do flows from who He is. But it’s not enough to know who Jesus is; we have to be willing to radically follow Him where He is going.

**In your own words, what did Jesus mean by “take up his cross”? Why is doing so a necessary part of discipleship?**

**How does carrying a cross through life affect the decisions we make and priorities we have?**

Truth has consequences, and Jesus’ teaching about His suffering, death, and resurrection has implications for His followers. As followers of Jesus, we must deny ourselves. This doesn’t mean we must have a low opinion of ourselves. Rather, we are not to be self-centered or selfish. We are to place God and His kingdom’s priorities first in our lives.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 6:31-34.

**How is this teaching of Jesus like the one in Luke 9?**

**Why does Jesus want wholehearted commitment? Why isn't it enough to be "somewhat" willing to follow Him?**

**Has following Jesus ever cost you anything? What was it? Why does following Jesus always cost us something?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Is the Jesus you've been following the one we find revealed in today's study? Why or why not?**

**What is one form of self-denial you are going to integrate into your life this week? What will you replace it with?**

**How can we practically help each other take up our crosses?**

## PRAYER

Pray for specific situations people in your group are likely to face this week. Ask the Lord for courage to confess Him before men and for the humility and perseverance to take up your cross daily.

## COMMENTARY

luke 9:10-27

9:10-11 After the apostles returned from their mission, they reported their deeds, and Jesus again took the lead over the ministry of preaching and healing. Bethsaida was a town on the northeastern coast of the Sea of Galilee that had recently been rebuilt by Herod Philip. The attempt to find a private place outside Bethsaida where the apostles could rest and confer with Jesus was foiled by the following crowds.

9:12-17 Other than His resurrection from the dead, the feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus that appears in all four Gospels (Mt 14:13-21; Mk 6:30-44; Jn 6:5-14).

9:12-14 According to John's Gospel, Jesus, already knowing what He was going to do, was the one who expressed concern initially over where the crowd would find food and lodging so late in the day (Jn 6:5-6). Here in Luke, Jesus responded to the question by the Twelve by challenging them to give them something to eat. The apostles had already surveyed the crowd and found only five loaves of bread and two fish to feed about 5,000 men (who, with women and children, could easily have totaled 15,000 or more). To better manage distribution, Jesus had the apostles organize the huge crowd into groups of about 50 people.

9:16-17 It is likely that when Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves, He uttered the traditional Jewish mealtime prayer: “Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the world, who brings out bread from the earth.” The miracle of the multiplying of the loaves and fish took place in the hands of Jesus as He broke the food and kept giving it to the disciples to distribute. At the end, it appears that each of the 12 apostles picked up a full basket of leftover pieces, even after feeding thousands of people. The Jews were required to pick up scraps of food that fell during any meal.

9:18-20 These verses are another example of Luke’s emphasis on prayer. The answers the disciples gave to Jesus’ question about His identity prove that Herod Antipas was not the only person who was perplexed on this point. When Jesus asked the disciples their personal opinion, Peter answered as spokesman for the group. His answer, that Jesus is God’s Messiah, is the conclusion to which everything in Luke’s Gospel points.

9:21-22 Jesus was not ready to present Himself openly as the Messiah. In popular Jewish views of that time, Messiah was expected to overthrow Roman rule and, in a wave of popularity, take over as king of Israel. Contrary to this, Jesus’ mission was to suffer and be rejected by the Jewish leadership before being killed and raised from the dead. This was the first of several predictions by Jesus of His death and/or resurrection (v. 44; 12:50; 17:25; 18:31-33).

9:23 To be a true disciple of Jesus requires self-denial. The cross was the most painful and humiliating form of execution of the Roman era. Thus, to take up one’s cross daily is to expect painful situations every day because of allegiance to Christ.

9:24 The principle that one must lose one’s life to save it as opposed to living only for this world is Jesus’ most common refrain in the Gospels (14:26-27; 17:33; Mt 10:38-39; 16:24-25; Mk 8:34-35; Jn 12:25). To follow Him, we must lay down our devotions to this world and live for Christ and His mission.

9:25 No matter how wealthy a person is in this life (gains the whole world), he will be bankrupt eternally (forfeits himself) if he dies without Christ.

9:26 To be ashamed of Christ and His words indicates unbelief, which will bring eternal judgment (12:9; 2Tim 2:12) at His second coming. It is also possible for believers to temporarily cower in fear around unbelieving peers and act “ashamed” of Jesus, as Peter did in his denials of Christ. In such cases a believer may suffer loss of heavenly reward (1Co 3:10-15; 2Co 5:10), but not suffer eternal punishment.

9:27 This cryptic statement refers to the next event in the book—the transfiguration of Jesus (vv. 28-35). Some standing here indicates Peter, James, and John, who were with Jesus at His transfiguration (v. 28). See the kingdom of God apparently means that the glorious appearance of Jesus (vv. 29,32) was a preview of the coming kingdom.

matthew 6:31-34

6:30 Jesus revealed that the real cause of anxiety is when disciples have little faith, meaning doubt about God's power and disbelief in His desire to provide for His children.

6:32 Obsession with material possessions displays the warped priorities of idolaters (Col 3:5).

6:33 The disciple who values the reign of God over his life and who diligently pursues righteous living can trust God to satisfy his needs.

6:34 Jesus did not prohibit planning for the future, but He did prohibit worrying about it. He urged His disciples instead to focus on the challenges of the present.