

## Small Group Meeting on Jesus the God-Man

### Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### Luke 9:18-36, 43b-51

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### Setting the scene:

- This passage leads up to a turning point in Luke's narrative. In 9:51 there is a marker that the narrative's direction of travel will now be towards Jerusalem and all that that will hold.
- Two questions lie side-by side in the passage – 'Who is Jesus?' and 'What does it mean to be a disciple?'

- 9:27 is probably not to be seen as saying the hearers will be alive when Jesus returns, but rather that they will see evidences of the kingdom consequent on the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. Who do you say Jesus is? And how might you explain that to a friend?

Q2. The voice from heaven at the Transfiguration says: 'This is my Son whom I have chosen, *listen* to him' (9:35). What spiritual practices do you find helpful to enable you to *listen*?

Q3. Commentators have summarised the description of radical discipleship in 9:23-26 as akin to 'putting one's head on the block' or 'one's neck in a noose'. What does it mean for you to take up your cross daily?

## Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by "walking the talk". What are you going to be doing this week that will help you acknowledge Jesus in all you are and all you do? It may be a challenge or activity that you are currently engaged with over many weeks. Be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

## **Some new challenge ideas**

### **1 Following Jesus**

Jesus's challenge in vv23-26 is that he is to come first in everything a disciple does. Share together where you struggle and help each other identify ways to overcome where you find this difficult. Aim for just one thing you will try over the coming week.

### **2 Who do the crowds say that I am?**

Spend some time this week with a family member, friend or work colleague who does not know Jesus. Ask them who they think Jesus was/is and seek ways to advance them in their understanding.

### **3 The story so far**

Take time to reflect on Luke's story so far. What have you learnt? How has the learning affected your life?

## **Group Prayer**

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore a deeper walk with God as a disciple of Jesus, as a disciple who listens to Jesus. Pray that your attempt to walk in the light of God's ways will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.

Pray the same for what we do corporately as Christ Church, and pray for the vacancy process as the advert is out again.