SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 9

The Christ of God and the Road to the Cross

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 9:23

"And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.""

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 9

Everyone in Luke 9 is trying to figure out who Jesus is, and Peter finally says it: “The Christ of God.” This week Jesus asks you the same question, and then shows you what following Him looks like — not someday, but daily, with your hand on the plow and your eyes on Him.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Sent With Almost Nothing

READ · LUKE 9:1–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus give the Twelve, what did He tell them to leave behind, and what did He tell them to do when the crowd was hungry (9:1–3, 13)?

REFLECT

When the disciples said, "Send the crowd away," Jesus said, "You give them something to eat!" (9:12–13). What need in front of you have you been trying to send away instead of bringing your little to Jesus?

REFLECT

Herod said, "I myself had John beheaded," and kept trying to see Jesus (9:9), but he never dealt with his guilt. Is there something you are carrying that you have never actually confessed to God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one person whose need you have been avoiding, and today bring Jesus whatever "five loaves" you have — time, a call, a meal, a prayer.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 9:23)

DAY 2 OF 5

Who Do You Say That I Am?

READ · LUKE 9:18–27

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What different answers do people give about who Jesus is, what does Peter say, and what three things does Jesus say a follower must do (9:19–20, 23)?

REFLECT

Right after Peter calls Him "The Christ of God," Jesus says He "must suffer many things" (9:20–22). Why do you think Jesus wanted them to know about the cross before they told anyone who He was?

REFLECT

Jesus said to take up your cross "daily" (9:23). What would saying "no" to yourself look like today — at work, at home, or with the men in your group?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out your own answer to Jesus' question in one honest sentence — "Jesus, You are …" — and then name one specific way you will put someone else ahead of yourself today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 9:23)

DAY 3 OF 5

Listen to Him

READ · LUKE 9:28–36

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to Jesus' face and clothing, who appeared with Him and what did they talk about, and what did the voice from the cloud say (9:29–31, 35)?

REFLECT

Peter wanted to build three tabernacles and stay on the mountain (9:33), but the Father said, "listen to Him!" (9:35). Where are you trying to hold on to a good feeling instead of listening to what Jesus is telling you to do?

REFLECT

When the voice had spoken, "Jesus was found alone" (9:36). What other voices — old habits, other people, your own fears — compete with Jesus for your attention, and how could you turn them down this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Spend ten quiet minutes today reading one of Jesus' own sayings in this chapter and asking, "Lord, what are You telling me to do?" — then do it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 9:23)

DAY 4 OF 5

Down in the Valley

READ · LUKE 9:37–50

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What could the disciples not do for the boy, what did Jesus do, and what were the disciples arguing about afterward (9:40–42, 46)?

REFLECT

The demon slammed the boy down "while he was still approaching" Jesus (9:42). Have you noticed things getting harder right when you were getting closer to Jesus? What does Jesus' power in this story say to you about that?

REFLECT

The disciples argued about which of them was the greatest, and Jesus stood a child beside Him (9:46–48). Where do you find yourself comparing yourself with other men — and what would being "least" look like for you this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one quiet act of service today that no one will thank you for, and offer it to Jesus as your way of being "least."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 9:23)

DAY 5 OF 5

Hand on the Plow

READ · LUKE 9:51–62

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Jesus determined to go, what did James and John want to do to the Samaritan village, and what did each of the three men say to Jesus (9:51, 54, 57–61)?

REFLECT

James and John wanted to call down fire on the people who rejected Jesus, but He rebuked them (9:54–55). Who are you tempted to write off, and how does Jesus' mercy toward that village change how you see them?

REFLECT

Two of the three men said, "first" (9:59, 61). What is the "first let me ..." in your life that keeps you from following Jesus with your whole heart?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name your "first let me" out loud to God today, hand it to Him, and take one step forward without looking back.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 9:23)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus sent the Twelve out in His authority and then sent seventy more after them (9:1–6; 10:1). What would it look like for our group to go out together this month instead of just meeting inside?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The disciples failed to help the boy, and Jesus did what they could not (9:40–42). How should we treat a brother in our group who has tried and failed, and how can we bring him back to Jesus?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem and the cross (9:51). What is one hard thing each of us needs to face this week instead of avoiding it — and how can the rest of us stand with him?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are the Christ of God and You set Your face toward the cross for me, so today I take up my cross and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 9:23

"And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.""