

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #29

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 9:18-22

Sermon Date: Apr 9, 2006

### Introduction:

Five thousand men plus their families have just been fed. The next scene we see in Luke's gospel account is that of Jesus praying in private, along with his disciples. He is about to ask them a profound question – one that at least one of them will be able to answer correctly, but yet not really understand its full meaning or implications.

Seeing Jesus in prayer at this point suggests a pattern for each of us to follow as we approach this time of study. Take time to pray first. Talk to your Lord. Reflect on who he is, what he has done for you. Ask the questions that are on your heart. Cast your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Unload your wearying burdens on him, and he will replace them with a “yoke” that you can handle – one that is light and easy, and that you can work together with many brothers and sisters to bear.

Pray so you can be prepared, because Jesus is about to ask an eternally significant question.

“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>18</sup> Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"</p> <p><sup>19</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."</p> <p><sup>20</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"</p> <p>Peter answered, "The Christ<sup>a</sup> of God."</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup> And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."</p> <p><sup>a</sup> <i>or Messiah</i></p>	

**Study Skill – Phrase Studies**

2. Practice your study skills by doing some research to figure out what Jesus calling himself "Son of Man" in Luke 9:22 might imply.

A standard concordance is useful for studying a single word and how it is used in the Bible. However, for tracing phrases that recur, a searchable electronic Bible is especially helpful. Have you used such a tool? If not, here are some tips to get you started.

If you have a Bible on your computer or PDA (Palm Pilot type device), it probably has a search feature where you can look for words or phrases. If you don't have software like this, you can go to one of several websites, such as [www.studylight.org](http://www.studylight.org) or [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com). Then type into the search tool "son of man" (include the quotes so it looks up only places where these words appear together in this order). By the way, most of these tools will let you choose between different translations. If in doubt, select the New International Version (NIV).

- a. How often does "son of man" appear in the Bible (NIV)? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Which Old Testament prophet is repeatedly addressed by God as "Son of Man"? \_\_\_\_\_ About how many times? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Who do you think is being referred to as the "son of man" in ...
  - Numbers 23:19? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Psalms 8:4-6? \_\_\_\_\_  
(and Heb 2:5-18)
  - Psalms 80:17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - Daniel 7:13-14? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Rev 1:13 and 14:14? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. How many times is Jesus recorded as referring to himself as the "Son of Man" in the gospels? \_\_\_\_\_ Why do you think this was his preferred way of referring to himself?

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

**“But what about you?”**

5. Before asking his followers to profess their faith in himself as the Messiah, Jesus took time to pray. Note the similar pattern back in Luke 6:12-13 when he chose these same followers.

a. What do you learn about prayer from Jesus' example here?

b. How could you apply this to your own life and prayer habits?

6. Why specifically would people have wondered if Jesus was Elijah? (Hint: Skim the chapters about Elijah in 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1-2. See any similarities with Jesus? Then also check out Mal 3:1, 4:5; Matt 17:10-13; Luke 1:17)

**Literary Technique: Fast Forwarding**

7. Since Luke 8:22, Luke's gospel has tracked very closely with Mark's (compare Luke 8:22-9:17 with Mark 4:35-6:44). But now Luke "fast forwards" by not writing about the various miracles and teachings which we see in Mark 6:45-8:26. Then he rejoins Mark's storyline beginning with Luke 9:18. This positions some scenes together that might have otherwise been rather separated. What connections do you see or insights do you gain due to Luke's "fast forward" approach? [Tips: Compare 9:7-8, 9:19, and 9:35. Contrast 9:2 with 9:21]

8. Now it's our turn to fast forward – to April 2006.

a. Who do people today say that Jesus is?

b. Who do you say that Jesus is?

c. Why do you suppose Jesus warned the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ?

d. Many Christians today live as if Jesus is still warning us not to tell – they rarely (if ever) tell anyone who Jesus was and is. How about you? How could you more effectively respond to Jesus' question in Matthew 16:15 by carrying out the commission he gives us in Mark 16:15? Who could you be bolder about sharing with?

9. Luke 9:22 is the first of Jesus' three direct predictions of his upcoming crucifixion and resurrection (see 9:44 and 18:31-33). How did the disciples respond and why (see 9:45 and 18:34)?

10. The disciples were unable to understand at this point (as in Luke 18:34). However, followers of Christ today can and do know the whole story – we do not have its meaning hidden from us. Holy Week – the week before Easter – is an especially appropriate time for us to reflect on this story and recall what Christ did for us and why.

a. What are some ways that people prepare their minds and hearts for holy week? (traditions of various churches? things you've done in the past? things you've heard? new ideas you can come up with? ... )

Here are some additional ideas to consider.

- Set aside times during Holy Week to fast, read the Bible, and pray
- Read the passion story in one (or all four) of the gospels (For example, you read from Luke 18:31 through the end of Ch 23 each day, and then read Chapter 24 several times on Easter.)
- Watch the movie “The Passion of the Christ”
- Learn (or refresh your memory about) the basic gospel message so you can be especially ready to help others know the real reason why Jesus had to suffer and die, and what that means to those who accept him as Lord and Savior. (recall the “Romans Road” gospel verses – Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10:13)

b. So, what will you do this coming Holy Week to draw closer to Jesus, to come to know him better, to share in his suffering (see Luke 9:23), to share in the joy of his resurrection?