

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #31

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 9:37-45

Sermon Date: Apr 23, 2006

Introduction:

God's words – found in the Bible – are “living and active.” Are you finding time to read it these days? To help you do so, we invite you to spend some time this week reading and exploring the next passage in the book of Luke. The “transfiguration” scene has just occurred where Jesus was visited by two prophets of old – Moses and Elijah. They discussed Jesus’ mission in which he – although perfect and sinless – would soon die in order to save mankind from its sins. There was no other way.

The next morning Jesus and three disciples who were with him came down from their mountain-top experience and found an argument underway involving the rest of the disciples and some teachers of the Jewish law. As the scene unfolds, we see how peoples’ faith falters when they turn their eyes and hearts away from Jesus. Isn't this true of us today? Christ has completed his mission, and those who accept him can rest assured of their eternal destiny to be with God forever. Yet we so easily turn away, trying to go it alone. Don't go it alone. Won't you join us in doing this Bible study? Then c'mon back next Sunday when we'll explore this passage together in the sermon.

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/

*South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592*

About Inductive Bible Study:

We encourage you to study the bible “inductively.” This means approaching the Scriptures as detectives who first **observe** the evidence, then **interpret** those observations, and finally **apply** the observations & interpretations in taking appropriate actions.

Induction: Inferring truth from a given set of particulars; moving from given details to inferred principles & truth. (Webster’s)

Why **observe**? The Bible is a carefully preserved collection of God’s words and deeds. It is the most reliable thing we have – our best evidence about how we are to live and what truth is. It is our best way of coming to know and love God – which He has commanded us to do.

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

When we begin to study a passage, our first task is to simply read it.

- Read through Luke 9:37-45, several times if possible. We use the New International Version (NIV) at South Shore Baptist, so you might want to use this yourself. But you can also use other translations if you are more comfortable with them.

Next, it’s a good idea to record some of your own observations. Recall how Luke “carefully investigated everything from the beginning” and then “wrote an orderly account” (Lk 1:3). Follow his lead, and carefully investigate what you see in the passage you are studying.

- Now read through the passage again slowly and as you do, write down as many observations as you can. Ask yourself “**Who**”, “**What**”, “**Why**”, “**Where**”, “**When**”, and “**How**” questions. Write down what you notice, what you wonder about, what patterns you see.
- Pay particular attention to what you notice about God, such as **his nature & character, his conduct, his promises**, etc. Writing down your observations helps you remember them, explore them further, share them with others, and take the next steps of interpreting and applying what you have seen.

As you begin this study, take a minute to **pray first**. Ask God to help you hear him, to understand what he is saying to you right now through this passage, and to apply it to your life so you can know him better.

1. Read the following bible passage and make observations and jot down any questions you have. Then we’ll help you explore it further and gain insights to help you on your spiritual journey.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³⁷ The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸ A man in the crowd called out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹ A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”</p> <p>⁴¹ “O unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”</p> <p>⁴² Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.</p> <p>While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.” ⁴⁵ But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.</p>	

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

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from page 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?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?
<i>SAMPLE: A <u>large</u> crowd was waiting for Jesus.</i>	<i>People were very curious about Jesus. They had heard of his miracles, and perhaps about his message about the "kingdom of God" (not sure what that is)</i>

3. 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.

Application How do I apply what it means?
<i>I'm curious about Jesus also, but I really don't pursue this much. Maybe I'll try reading the bible more.</i>

Dig Deeper:

This story appears in three books of the Bible – the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Just like reading three biographies or newspaper accounts, these three authors help us gain additional insights into the events that occurred. Read the other two passages.

Matthew 17:14-21

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. ¹⁵ “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

¹⁷ “O unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” ¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁰ He replied, “Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

²² When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. ²³ They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.

Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. ¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

¹⁹ “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled

around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. ²² “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” ²³ “If you can’t?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁹ He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

4. Circle the parts in Matthew and Mark’s accounts that provide key additional information not included in Luke. These differences illuminate each author’s perspective and emphasis.

a. What is Jesus teaching us about faith here?

b. What is faith, and why is it important? (Check out Hebrews 11:1, 6, John 5:24, John 20:31, Romans 10:9)

c. Where are you holding back – not putting all your faith in Jesus?
Do you see any specific ways you could trust Jesus more this week?

5.a. In addition to faith, what else were the disciples lacking that hampered their ability to help the demoniac boy? (See Mark 9:28-29)

b. Do you see any parallels in your own life, where you sense that strengthening your personal spiritual disciplines (such as prayer, reading the bible, going to church, etc.) would enable you to serve God and help others more effectively?

6. What is the most significant insight you've gained in doing this Bible study? What are its implications for your life in the months ahead?