

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #32

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 9:46-50

Sermon Date: Apr 30, 2006

Introduction:

I've heard that it was said that one hasn't really read a book until you've read it three times. This same principle applies to studying the Bible. Not because it's confusing or inaccessible, but rather because we tend to be confused and inattentive. But there is much reason for hope:

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

When you read the Bible, do you experience it as living and active? Does it tend to penetrate you as the writer to the Hebrews describes? Just as the disciples were a bit slow to understand what Jesus was teaching them, so we tend to be a bit slow to absorb and apply God's Word. Fortunately, as believers in Christ, we are given a counselor (the Holy Spirit) who helps us understand (John 14:26, 16:13).

In this week's Bible study, we are going to practice the skill of reading, re-reading, and re-reading yet again – giving our busy minds a chance to slow down and “marinate” in the scriptures, looking at it from many angles, and trusting God to show us his precious and powerful truth. Before you turn the page, ask the Lord to guide your time and reveal his truth.

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*

1. Read and Re-Read:

Begin by reading the passage a few times. Underline or highlight things that stand out to you. Make notes about things you notice, patterns you see, questions you have, or whatever else comes to mind.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 9:46-50 (New International Version - NIV)</p> <p>⁴⁶ An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷ Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. ⁴⁸ Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.”</p> <p>⁴⁹ “Master,” said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.”</p> <p>⁵⁰ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”</p>	

2. Read Other Translations:

Now try reading the passage in one or more other translations. The New International Version (NIV) which we use at SSBC is a type of translation called a “dynamic equivalent”, which translates the original Hebrew and Greek using words and idioms that would be the normal way of saying the same thing in English. A good balance in your study can be had by also reading a more literal translation (more “word-for-word”) such as the New King James Version (NKJV) or the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)**. Read the NASB translation below and once again make observations, note differences, etc.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Luke 9:46-50 (NASB)</p> <p>⁴⁶ An argument started among them as to which of them might be the greatest.</p> <p>⁴⁷ But Jesus, knowing what they were thinking in their heart, took a child and stood him by His side,</p> <p>⁴⁸ and said to them, “Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.”</p> <p>⁴⁹ John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name; and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow along with us.”</p> <p>⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, “Do not hinder him; for he who is not against you is for you.”</p>	

3. Look for Key Words, Follow Important Topics:

- a. What **words** are repeated or emphasized in this passage? (circle them below)
- b. What are some important **themes** or **topics** that are emphasized by the events described and/or the author's method of describing them? (note them below)
- c. What point is the passage making about these keywords, themes, and topics? (use the chart below to note them)

Scripture	Important Themes & Topics
<p>Luke 9:46-50 (NIV)</p> <p>⁴⁶ An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. ⁴⁷ Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. ⁴⁸ Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest."</p> <p>⁴⁹ "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."</p> <p>⁵⁰ "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."</p>	

4. Explore & Compare Related or Parallel Passages:
 Read Mark's version of this event. What similarities & differences do you see? How are the themes & topics you noted in question 3 illuminated or clarified by Mark?

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>Mark 9:33-41 (NIV)</p> <p>³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.</p> <p>³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."</p> <p>³⁶ He took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."</p> <p>³⁸ "Teacher," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."</p> <p>³⁹ "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."</p>	

5. Focus on the Main Point of the Passage:

In studying the Bible, we must be careful to draw out what it is saying rather than reading into it what we want to hear. One approach that helps us do this is to identify the main point of a passage. Read Luke 9:46-50 again, this time looking for the key point that Luke is making through his account of what Jesus and his followers said and did.

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⁴⁹ "Master," said John, "we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us."

⁵⁰ "Do not stop him," Jesus said, "for whoever is not against you is for you."

a. How do verses 49-50 relate to verses 46-48?

b. What was Jesus trying to teach his followers through this discussion?

c. What is the main point of this passage?

6. Apply the Main Point of the Passage to Your Life:

a. What is going on in your life right now that relates to the main point of Luke 9:46-50?

b. The disciples will later continue to fail to understand and apply Jesus' teaching in this passage (see for example Luke 22:24 and Mark 10:35-45). In our busy lives, we too often experience a similar pattern of having to "re-learn" things repeatedly. What similar experiences have you had? What have you learned about yourself from these experiences?

c. One key way we retain what we learn is by putting it into practice (James 1:23-25). What is one specific and significant way that you can put what you have learned in this study into practice this week?

d. What obstacles are likely to interfere with your accomplishing the application you have in mind? What can you do to overcome those obstacles?

7. Use the Passage as a Template for Prayer:

As you close your time of study, use the passage once more – this time as a guide to prayer. Read one verse or part, and then talk to God about it. What did you learn from it? What did it convict you about? What feelings did it stir? What meaning did you understand from it? How do you sense God wanting you to apply it to your life? Ask God to help you do just that. The idea is to have a conversation with God about what He has said to you in His Word. Repeat this process for each verse or natural portion of the passage, pausing after each to talk to God about it.

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Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him.

Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me;

and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For he who is least among you all—he is the greatest.”

“Master,” said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”

Amen.