

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 15

Jesus is gloriously transfigured

Luke 9:27-36



DAY 1

Jesus is the glorious King • Luke 9:27-29

READ

Luke 9:27-36

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 9:27-29

To prove that it is worth it to follow Jesus, Jesus gave three disciples a glimpse of the kingdom of God. They saw a preview of Jesus' personal and glorious reign on earth when He returns (Luke 9:26). Jesus began by praying, as He often did right before showing His divinity, His nature as God (Luke 9:18; Mark 6:46). As He prayed, His face became as bright as the sun (Matt 17:2), and His clothes became whiter than even the most carefully washed laundry (Mark 9:3), flashing like lightning (Luke 9:29). This passage shows that Jesus is more glorious than Moses, the one most honored by the Jews. Like Jesus, Moses' face shone after hearing God's voice on a mountain covered in a cloud of glory (Exod 24:15-18; 34:29-35). But the light in Moses' face was only a fading reflection of God's fiery glory (24:17; 2 Cor 3:13), and Moses could hide the glow behind a veil (Exod 34:35). In contrast, Jesus' glory was His own, shining out from Him so powerfully that His clothes blazed with light. He is the King of glory (Ps 24:10; 1 Cor 2:8).

ASK

1. What did Jesus promise that some of the disciples would see before they died?
The kingdom of God, which is the Son of God on earth in His glory.
2. Who did Jesus take with Him?
Peter, John, and James.
3. When Jesus changed, what did He look like?
His face shined like the sun, and His clothes were bright white like lightning.
4. What did the light pouring out of Jesus show about Him?
It showed that He has divine glory in Himself. He is God, the Lord of glory.

DISCUSS

1. What is the brightest light you have ever seen? Why do you think God's glory shines like light?
2. How did Jesus normally appear (Isa 53:2)? How does Jesus appearance in this passage show that He is more glorious than Moses?

DAY 2

God gave Israel a human king • Luke 9:30–33

READ

Luke 9:27–36

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 9:30–33

It was so glorious, Peter wanted it to last forever. Peter saw Christ's glory, he saw Moses and Elijah, and he heard talk about Jesus' "departure," which is actually the word "exodus." All of these were connected with prophecies of the coming kingdom (Deut 18:15; Isa 61:1; Mal 4:5). It also happened to be the time of the *Feast of Booths, Israel's celebration of deliverance from Egypt by living in temporary shelters made of branches* (Lev 23:34–43). Since the Feast of Booths was also part of the coming kingdom (Zech 14:16–19), Peter rightly concluded he was experiencing the kingdom. That is why he wanted to build tents, or booths. But Peter wrongly concluded that the kingdom was there to stay, without the cross coming first. Jesus knew Peter still did not want to accept His death (Mark 8:32), so He had brought Moses and Elijah along as witnesses. They confirmed that Jesus' "exodus" would actually be His coming death in Jerusalem. Peter was getting a glimpse of the kingdom, but the eternal kingdom could only come after Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.

ASK

1. Who appeared with Jesus?
Moses and Elijah.
2. What did Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus?
They talked about His coming "exodus" in Jerusalem, which means His death.
3. What did Peter want to build?
Three tents (shelters or booths).
4. Why did Peter want to build shelters?
He understood that he was seeing the kingdom, and he wanted it to stay.

DISCUSS

1. Why must the cross come before the kingdom (Heb 9:22b)? How is this also true in your life (Gal 2:20)?
2. How will the eternal kingdom be like what Peter saw that day (Rev 21:23–25)? Is that what you are living for?

DAY 3

Jesus is the glorious Son • Luke 9:34–35

READ

Luke 9:27–36

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 9:34–35

God interrupted Peter's words with an unusual cloud (Matt 17:5). This was God's own glorious presence, the same glory that had protected Israel at the Red Sea (Exod 14:19–20), led Israel through the wilderness (13:21), and filled the tabernacle and the temple (40:34–35; 1 Kgs 8:10–11). Naturally, the disciples were terrified (cf. Isa 6:5; Ezek 1:28; Rev 1:17), and all the more so when God spoke out of the fiery cloud as

He had done to Israel 1500 years before (Exod 19:9, 16; Deut 4:12). First, God said that Jesus is His Son. As the Son, Jesus is *God*, just as a son of a human is human. Second, Jesus is the *Chosen One, the perfect Servant of God, who brings justice, establishes the new covenant, is a light for the nations, opens blind eyes, and sets prisoners free* (Isa 42:1, 6–7). Third, God said, "Listen to Him!" (Deut 18:15). God was telling the disciples to accept the hard message Jesus had just given them. If they wanted to enter Christ's kingdom, they needed to accept Christ's coming death and choose to follow Him into self-denial, humiliation, and death.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What kind of cloud overshadowed the disciples?
The fiery cloud of God's own glorious presence.
2. What did God say out of the cloud?
He said Jesus was His Son and His chosen One, so listen to Him.
3. Why did God tell the disciples to listen to Jesus?
The disciples needed to accept His coming death and choose to follow Him into self-denial, humiliation, and death.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you wish you could have seen and heard what those three disciples did? Even though you weren't there, how can you apply the main point of the whole story (Luke 9:35b)?
2. As the Son of God, how is Jesus like His Father (John 5:17–18; 10:30–33; 17:22; Heb 1:3)?

DAY 4*Jesus told the disciples to remain silent • Luke 9:36***READ** 

Luke 9:27–36

EXPLAIN **The truth of Luke 9:36**

Jesus did not want the disciples to talk about His glory until after He had defeated sin and death (Matt 17:9). But then why did He show them His glory at all? To encourage them when life got hard. After much suffering, Peter and James were martyred, and John was exiled to a barren island in his old age. They needed to remember the light of His glory, so that in the darkest day they would not lose hope. They did more than remember! They fell in love with the beauty of Christ's shining glory. They understood that those who see God's light love His light and do not walk in the darkness of sin (1 John 1:5–7). They were so overjoyed to share in God's own glorious nature that they urged everyone to turn from corruption and pursue godliness (2 Pet 1:3–7). They also teach us the same message God was teaching them: when following Jesus leads you into suffering and pain, pay attention to His words "as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (1:19).

ASK 

1. Why did Jesus tell Peter, James, and John to keep silent until after His death and resurrection?
Sin had to be paid for and death defeated first.
2. Why did Jesus show His glory at all?
The light they saw would give them hope in their darkest days.
3. What happened to Peter, James, and John?
After much suffering, Peter and James were martyred, and John was exiled to a barren island in his old age.

DISCUSS 

1. We choose to sin when Jesus does not appear glorious to us (1 John 1:5–7; 2 Pet 1:3–7). In order to live a pure and faithful life, what can you do to see Jesus' glory more every day?
2. Is there a specific verse in the Bible that you cling to during difficult times (2 Pet 1:19)?

DAY 5

Jesus' glory shines forth • Hebrews 1:3

READ

Hebrews 1:1-4

EXPLAIN

The truth of Hebrews 1:3

The disciples saw who Jesus really was: the Lord of glory (1 Cor 2:8; Jas 2:1), the exact image of God and the radiance of God's glory (Heb 1:3). The glory of God "radiates" out of Jesus. He does not reflect God's glory. Instead, since He is God, Jesus sends forth His own divine glory. The glory of God shines out of Him. This glory was veiled during most of His time on earth (Isa 53:2). However, this is the *glory* Jesus now has in heaven, the *bright, blazing light* that blinded Paul (Acts 9:3-9), made John fall down as if dead (Rev 1:13-17), and will one day cause all men to bow at His feet (Matt 24:30; Phil 2:9-11). When He returns, His glory will shine for all believers so brightly that no sun is needed (Rev 21:23). Thus Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy: "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isa 40:5). Just as Jesus had promised, the disciples saw the kingdom of God, for they saw the LORD, the King of glory (Ps 24:7-10).

ASK

1. Does Jesus reflect God's glory?
No. Since He is God, He sends forth His own divine glory.
2. Was this glory always visible while Jesus was on earth?
No. It was veiled most of the time.
3. What kind of an effect does Jesus' glory have on those who see it?
Jesus' glory blinded Paul, made John fall down as if dead, and will one day cause all men to bow at Jesus' feet.
4. Why will there be no need for the sun when Jesus returns?
His glory will shine for all believers.

DISCUSS

1. Does the moon reflect or radiate light? What about the sun? What about Jesus?
2. Since Jesus is so glorious, how should you live if you want to enjoy His presence (Ps 24:3-7)?

NEXT WEEK

Jesus confronts the rich young ruler

Matthew 19:16-26

