

Transform



Luke 9-19



In Session One the young people explored who Jesus is. In Session Two they saw how people responded when they encountered him. In this session the focus shifts again. As Luke's Gospel turns toward Jerusalem, Jesus begins to reshape what it means to recognise him as the Messiah.

Through his teaching, parables and encounters on the road, Jesus transforms how his followers understand power, what it means to follow him, and the kind of community that forms around him. As they trace this journey through Luke chapters 9 to 19, the young people will consider how walking with Jesus transforms every part of our lives.

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- Flip-chart paper
- 'Banquet' handout
- 'Transform' reflection handout



Beat

Say:

We're carrying on our journey through Luke, and in this part of the Gospel Jesus tells a parable about a huge banquet. To get you thinking, imagine you are hosting your own perfect banquet. It can be as big or small as you like. It can be formal or relaxed and there are no limits on the budget.

Leader's notes:

Here are some questions to help prompt discussion.

- What food would you serve?
- Who would be on your guest list?
- Where would the banquet take place?
- What music or band would you have playing?

- Who would definitely get an invite?
- Is there anyone who would not be invited?

 **Bridge**

Ask:

Apart from your own, which of the banquets described would you most like to attend? Explain your reason.



 **Amplify**

Say:

In Session One we focused on who Jesus is. In Session Two we saw how people responded when they encountered him. Now the focus changes. If Jesus truly is the Messiah, what does that mean for us?

Leader's notes:

Write the words Power, Discipleship and Community on a flip chart. Ask the young people to write these three headings in their journal or on a sheet of paper. As they watch the clip, invite them to listen carefully for how Jesus' teaching and actions begin to reshape our understanding of each of these areas. How does Jesus redefine power? What does he say following him involves? What kind of community is he forming?

Watch:

The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19 – Bible Project (stop at 4:28)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUCCUHurVOI

Say:

In Luke 9:51 we're told that Jesus 'set his face to go to Jerusalem' (RSV). Just as Moses led the people toward the Promised Land, Luke presents Jesus as leading people into something new. As he travels, Jesus teaches, tells parables and calls people to follow him. The journey itself becomes part of the transformation.

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus is trying to shape in his followers during this journey?

Say:

This journey matters because following Jesus isn't just about reaching Jerusalem. It's about the transformation that takes place along the way. As he travels, Jesus is reshaping how his

followers think about power, what it means to follow him and how they live together as a community. We're going to focus first on power and discipleship, and then in Sound Check we'll take a closer look at the kind of community Jesus is forming.

POWER

Say:

Earlier in Luke's Gospel Jesus shared teaching at the Sermon on the Mount that transformed how people saw the power structures of the world. Here are just a few lines from this teaching:

'Blessed are you who are poor ...'

'Blessed are you who hunger now ...'

'Woe to you who are rich ...'

'Woe to you who are well fed now ...'

– (selected verses from Luke 6:20-26)

Ask:

– How does Jesus transform the way people look at the powerful of this world?

Say:

We see this transformation played out in the life of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. After meeting Jesus, he gives half of what he owns to the poor. We also see what it looks like when people reject the transforming power of Jesus. In Luke 18, the rich young ruler has the opportunity to follow Jesus, but cannot let go of his wealth.

Ask:

- What might Zacchaeus have realised about wealth and power that the rich young ruler could not?
- What do Zacchaeus and the rich young ruler reveal about how tightly we can cling to power and control?

DISCIPLESHIP

Say:

As well as transforming how we see power, Jesus also transforms what it means to follow him. In Luke chapter 9 Peter recognises Jesus as the Messiah, but straight after that Jesus says something unexpected.

Read:

²³ Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'

– (Luke 9:23)

Ask:

– Why do you think Jesus says this immediately after Peter recognises him as the Messiah?

Say:

Peter recognises who Jesus is, but he has not yet understood what kind of Messiah Jesus will be. Jesus makes it clear that recognising him and following him are not the same thing. It's possible to know who he is but still hesitate when the cost of following him becomes real. We see this play out in Luke's Gospel.

Leader's notes:

Ask the young people to read Luke 9:57–62 in pairs or small groups. Ask them to discuss how each person responds when Jesus calls them to follow him.

Ask:

– What seems to stop each person from fully following Jesus?

Say:

On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus makes it clear that following him transforms lives. The balance of power shifts and the cost of discipleship is revealed. If he really is the Messiah, life cannot stay the same.

**Bridge****Ask:**

Why do you think some people allow Jesus to transform them, while others walk away unchanged?

 **Sound Check****Say:**

In the Bible Project clip we heard Jesus tell the story of the Prodigal Son. Jesus shared this story in response to criticism from the Pharisees. They were uncomfortable with the people he ate with and welcomed to his table.

Ask:

In the story of the Prodigal Son, what does the Father do when his son returns home?

Say:

In celebration of his son returning home, the father throws a huge banquet. In Luke's Gospel, meals and dinner tables often become places where Jesus shows what God's Kingdom is like and who is welcome in it. In Luke 14:1–23 Jesus is at a dinner hosted by a Pharisee. What happens at this meal reveals a lot about the kind of community Jesus is forming. We are going to explore this passage and imagine two different banquets.

Leader's notes:

Divide the group into two teams. Ask both teams to read Luke 14:1-23 carefully. Their task is to create a picture of a modern-day banquet based on what they discover in the Scripture passage. They can describe it, sketch it or write bullet points, but everything must be rooted in the passage. Remind them that their ideas must come from what they see in the Scripture. They are creating a picture based on what Jesus says and does in this chapter.

Team 1 – The VIP Banquet

Design a modern-day banquet where status, influence and reputation decide who is invited and who gets noticed.

Think about:

- Who would be invited?
- Who would get the best seats?
- Who would feel most comfortable?
- What food would be at the banquet and who would serve it?
- Who might feel out of place?
- What would the atmosphere be like?

Team 2 – The Kingdom Banquet

Design a modern-day banquet where the guest list reflects the values of God's Kingdom.

Think about:

- Who would be invited?
- Who would be honoured?
- Who would feel welcome?
- What food would be at the banquet and who would serve it?
- What would the atmosphere be like?

Give the teams time to prepare their banquet. When they share, encourage them to explain how their ideas connect back to specific parts of Luke 14:1-23.

Say:

We have seen that when Jesus reshapes how we think about power and what it means to follow him, it reshapes the kind of community that grows around him. In Luke 14, the guest list changes. The people who are usually overlooked are welcomed. That is the kind of Kingdom Jesus is forming as he walks toward Jerusalem.

 **Bridge**

Ask:

What kind of community forms when Jesus is truly at the centre?

 **Selah**

Leader's notes:

Give each member of the group a 'Transform' reflection handout.

Say:

As Jesus walked toward Jerusalem, he was not just teaching ideas. He was inviting people to be transformed. Take a quiet moment to reflect on the three themes we explored today.

Power

Where do you find yourself wanting control, status or recognition?

What might it look like for Jesus to reshape how you see power?

Discipleship

Is there something Jesus is asking you to let go of?

What feels costly about following him right now?

Community

Who might Jesus be inviting you to welcome, notice, or make space for?

Sit in silence for a minute. Ask God to show you one area of your life that needs to be transformed.

Leader's notes:

You may want to play the following piece of music while the young people reflect on the questions. Pray with the group and encourage them to take the questions home to reflect on in the coming week.

Watch:

Pat Barrett – 'Build My Life' (Lyric Video (4:23)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE

Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is one way this session has challenged how you think about power, following Jesus or community?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.



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