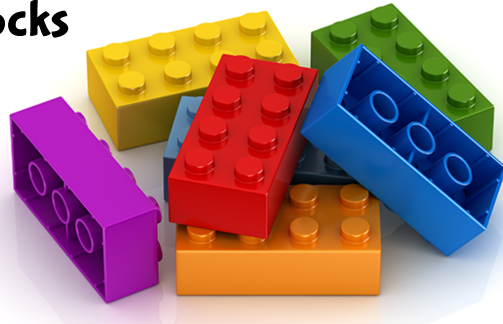


## Building Blocks

### Why are Legos so cool?

- A small number of parts can be connected to build almost anything
- Literally “building blocks”



### What are other kinds of building blocks used to make things?

- For example: words, letters, and characters

### What are the building blocks of the Kingdom of God?

1

## Prayer

“And Elisha prayed, ‘**Open my servant’s eyes, Lord, so that he may see.**’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

*2 Kings 6:17*

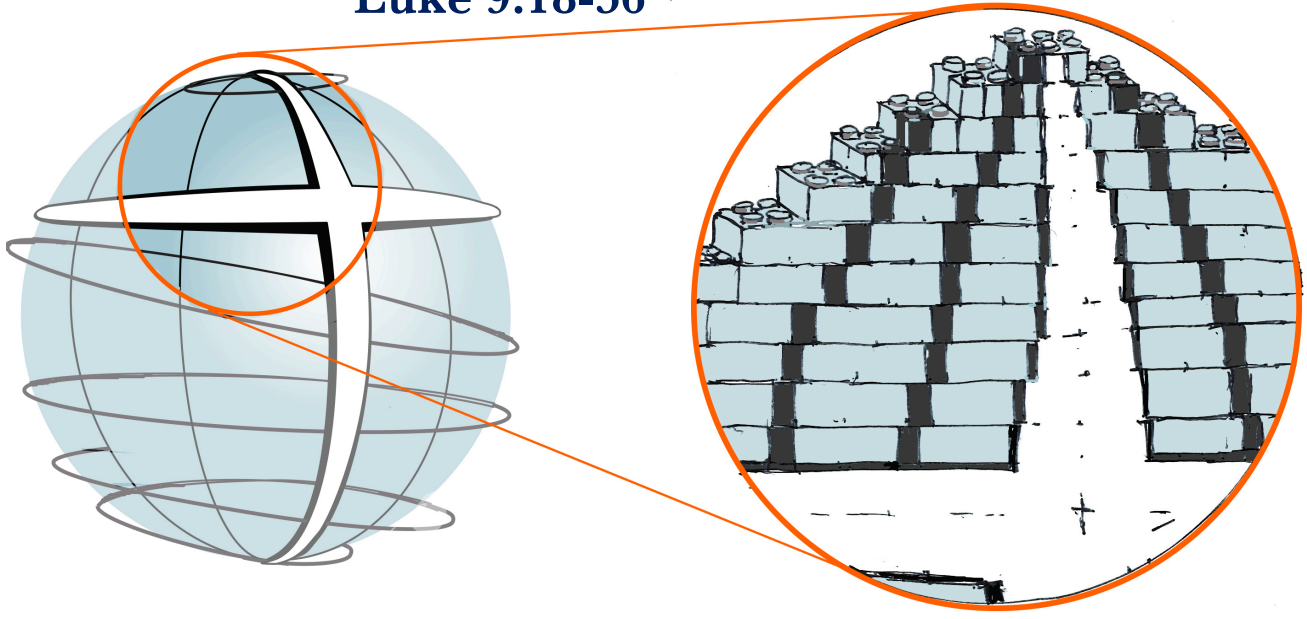
**Please open our eyes to see the love, glory, and power of God**

2

# Following Jesus

Luke 9:18-36

[bib.ly/Lu9.NIV](http://bib.ly/Lu9.NIV)  
[tiny.cc/cmchandouts](http://tiny.cc/cmchandouts)



3

## *The Gospel of Luke*

- It tells the story of our Salvation
- It tells the story of Jesus making disciples
- Chapter 9 is a huge turning point!
  - “Further up and further in” to the heart of God

4

*Luke 9:18-20*

Once when Jesus was **praying** in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?”

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.”

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

Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

5

*Luke 9:18-36*

**18-20:** Jesus’ question & Peter’s answer: Jesus is God’s Messiah

- Prayer is key to Jesus’ unfolding story
- Jesus’ identity is key for life
- The people thought...
  - Clearly a great man who had the power of God
  - Perhaps one of the greatest prophets returned to life
- What did the apostles believe?
  - God’s Messiah (Christ/Anointed One)
  - God’s promised one

21-22:           • The One who brought God’s Kingdom to earth

23-27:

28-36:

6

***Luke 9:21-22***

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

7

***Luke 9:18-36***

**21-22:** Jesus’ revelation: He will suffer, die & come back to life

- Very serious command: tell no one He is Messiah
- Why keep silent?
  - God’s ideas are very different from people’s ideas!
    - For the people AND the disciples
    - ➔ Christ and nationalism don’t mix!
- Challenging idea: God’s Messiah must suffer and die
  - “must”: God’s perfect plan; not an accident or trap
  - Will be rejected by the most powerful people
    - To suffer and die

23-27: • Yet it won’t end with suffering and death

28-36: • He will be “raised to life” on the third day

8

*Luke 9:23-27*

Then he said to them **all**: “**Whoever** wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

“Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

9

*Luke 9:18-36*

**23-27:** Jesus' call: all disciples **must** follow this hard road too

- Jesus' warning applies to all (not just a few) → us too
- Following Jesus means following the hard road
  - Entirely stop serving self and obeying self...shocking!
  - Every (ordinary) day
  - Like Peter did to Jesus: “I don't even know the man”
- Because:
  1. Serving & obeying self kills you; serving Christ gives life
  2. The world can give fading stuff; it cannot give true life
  3. Denying Jesus means Jesus will deny us in His great glory
- So follow the road Jesus is on...with Him
- Some will see & know His kingdom before they die

**28-36:**

10

***Luke 9:28-36***

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

11

***Luke 9:28-36***

As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

12

*Luke 9:28-36*

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone.

The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

13

*Luke 9:18-36***28-36: God's revelation: Jesus is the glorious Son of God**

- Again Jesus was praying: another weighty event
  - Special learning for Peter, John, and James
- Jesus' glory was seen more clearly
  - Moses & Elijah join Jesus, and consider His suffering
  - So Jesus isn't Moses or Elijah!
- Peter wanted to prolong event with 3 equal shelters
- **God** corrected Peter (very dramatically & directly!)
  - Jesus is the only One! (even in His suffering)
    - Son of God
    - Chosen One of God
  - Submit to Jesus above all else

14

*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life  
so we will live like Him**

15

*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life  
so we will live like Him**

**Worship/submit to Him**

He is greater than the greatest human  
He is in a completely different  
category!

- Perfect in power, holiness & love
- His glory is beyond anything we can handle

16



*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life  
so we will live like Him**

**Worship/submit to Him**

What an incredible Savior!

- He suffered intensely & unjustly
- His Father abandoned Him
- To show His love for people who denied Him

17

*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life  
so we will live like Him**

**Worship/submit to Him**

What an incredible Savior!

- He suffered to death  
so we can experience life and joy  
and wholeness and peace  
forever

18

*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life**

**so we will live like Him**

**Worship/submit to Him**

We are to share His glory  
which means we must also share  
His suffering

- Deny ourselves
- Take up our cross daily
- Follow Him

19

*The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
yet He suffered to death  
to bring us life  
so we will live like Him**

20

### What are the building blocks of the universe?

- Ancient ideas:
  - wood, fire, earth, metal, water, ether, ...
- Some modern ideas:
  - Atoms
  - Protons, neutrons, electrons
  - Quarks
  - Bosons and fermions
  - ????

21

### Building blocks of God's Kingdom

Eternity past: **self-giving love**

- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in **self-giving love** for the others

Creation: a new object for God to love

- a perfect world designed around **God-centered selfless love**
- God gives of Himself beyond the Godhead

Fall: Adam & Eve went their own way

- **God-centered** → **other things take the center (serpent, self, fruit)**
- **Selflessness** → **self-serving or we-serving**

**Salvation: God-centered selfless love by God Himself**

- Serving even to an unjust death → the cross
- Given as a gift to all who will receive it

**Re-creation: God-centered selfless love by every person**

- growing now, and perfected when Jesus returns

22

## Building blocks of God's Kingdom

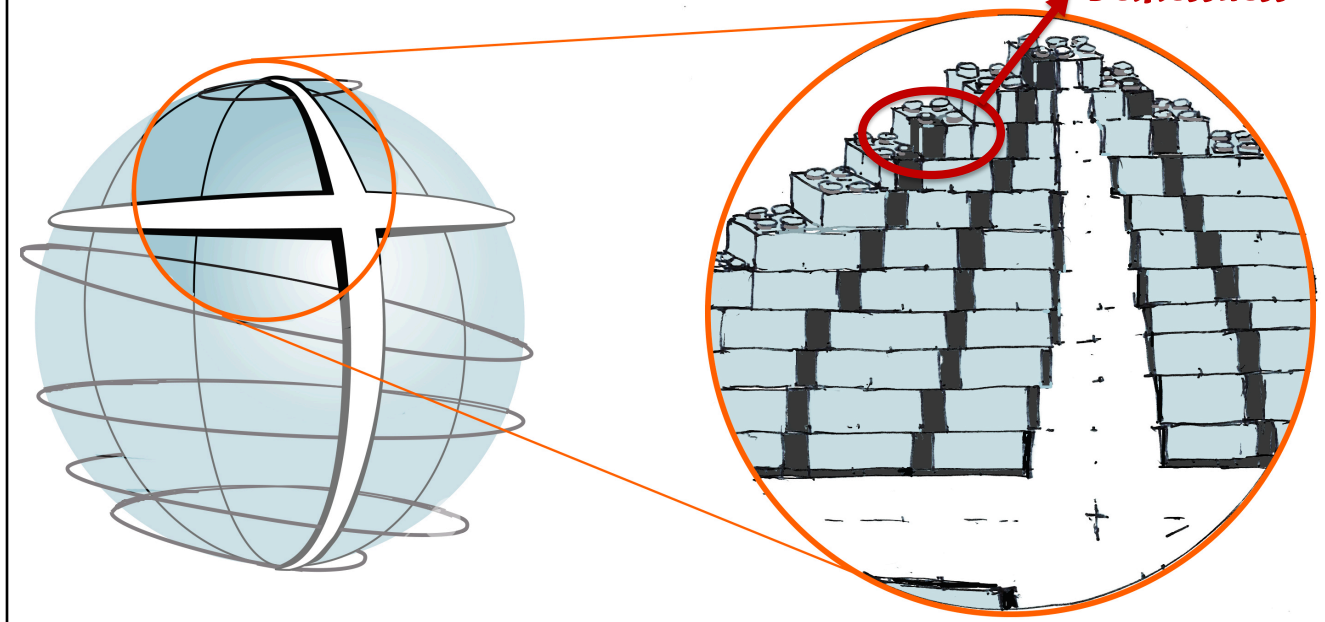
### God-centered selflessness

- Jesus obeyed the Father, and was a servant to us until death
- So we are called to be holy like Jesus...
  - To deny ourselves: "I don't even know the man!"
  - To follow Jesus: His teaching and His example

23

## Building blocks of a Church

**God-centered  
Selflessness**



24

### Application

#### The building block of God's Kingdom:

#### God-centered selflessness

#### Why do this?

- It is who God is ..... we love and worship Him
- It is how He made the world .....it is the way of life
- Leaving this spoiled the world .....the alternative kills
- It is how Jesus rescued the world.....He keeps doing it for us
- It is the command of Almighty God.....we trust His love
- Jesus will return one day...to share His glory with His disciples

25

### Application

#### God-centered Selflessness

- Live for His glory → "Hallowed by your name"
  - "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. **Therefore honor God with your bodies.**" *1 Corinthians 6:19–20*
  - "He must become greater, I must become less." *John 3:30*
- Live according to His teaching above all else
  - Head: thinking, understanding
  - Heart: emotions, will, affections
  - Hands: words and actions

**"Listen to Him!"**

26

### Application

#### God-centered Selflessness

- Consider others more important than myself
  - Peter denied Jesus: "I don't even know the man"
  - Jesus said: "you must deny yourselves"
- I'm not saying:
  - You and your identity and those you love don't matter
  - You are not to take responsibility for your life
- I am saying
  - We entrust all that we value to Almighty God who gave Himself for us
  - We live responsibly in obedience to Christ

27

### Application

#### God-centered Selflessness

- We are to do as Jesus did
    - "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so **you must love one another**. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if **you love one another**." *John 13:34–35*
    - "in humility **value others above yourselves**" *Philippians 2:3–4*
- In church   In our families   In our friendships   In politics  
 In our work   In our neighborhoods   In our Life Groups  
 Our country compared to others  
 Our families compared to others

28

### **Application**

**The building block of God's Kingdom (all creation):**  
**God-centered selflessness**

29

### *The Big Idea*

**Jesus is the Son of God  
 yet He suffered to death  
 to bring us life  
 so we will live like Him**

**God speaks from glory:**

**"This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."**

**Jesus says to us: "Follow me."**

30