



2-25-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

"The Road to Jerusalem"



Context

Throughout the season of Lent, we are walking with Jesus on his journey to the cross, on the road to Jerusalem. In Luke 9:51, it says that Jesus resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem. Each week, we'll get one step closer to Jerusalem, to the cross, and learn from Jesus along the way. While taking this journey, we'll take an extra look at the geography and history of this journey – using maps and pictures of the Holy Land.

Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

Introduction

Have you ever set out for a difficult task, knowing it would be hard? What did you do to prepare for it? How did you know it would be hard? Did knowing ahead of time make it easier to resolve to do it anyway?

Discussing the Text – Luke 9:51-56

1. This brief passage marks a turning point in Jesus' ministry for the Gospel of Luke. Why do you think it would be important to note that Jesus was leaving Galilee and heading for Jerusalem?
2. What is the connection between Jesus' going up into heaven and going to Jerusalem, described in verse 51?
3. Read Luke 9: 28-31. This passage describes Jesus' transfiguration, where Jesus is revealed in all his glory. Verse 31 mentions Jerusalem. What connection does this transfiguration event have with our passage describing Jesus' journeying to Jerusalem in 9:51?
4. In verses 52 and 53, Jesus sends his followers to a town in Samaria, but they are rejected. Why do you think they would be turned away?

So what?

1. There seem to be conflicting details between Luke's story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and John's. For example, Luke 10:42 already places Jesus in Bethany, near Jerusalem, but then Luke 19 has Jesus further from Jerusalem, back in Jericho, meeting Zacchaeus. Do you think this matters? Why or why not?
2. All four of the Gospel accounts focus heavily on Jesus' crucifixion. Why do you think they would do so?
3. What do we learn about Jesus' character when this passage implies that Jesus knew his death was coming in Jerusalem, but he went anyway?
4. During this season of Lent, where do you need to "embrace death" in your life?
5. As Jesus embraced his own upcoming death, he showed us how life comes through ugly, painful situations. When have you experienced this?
6. Is there a part of your life today that is causing you to need the new life that Jesus gives?

Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group to pray for the courage to follow Jesus, wherever he leads.