



## SDG Discussion Guide

Luke 9:46-62

February 17, 2019

For Starters:

What is the one thing you are best at doing?

What is your favorite excuse for not doing something (eg, traffic)?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. In verses 46-50, how are the disciples gauging "greatness"? How does Jesus do so?
2. In John's concern (v 49), what's the root desire? The irony (see v 40)?
3. How does Jesus' "timetable" meet further resistance (vv 51-56)? Why from the Samaritans? Why from his own disciples? How must Jesus be feeling by now?
4. How does Jesus respond to the excuses offered by the three men (vv 57,59,61)? In your own words, what do each of Jesus' sayings mean? What's his point?
5. What have you done for someone recently "in Jesus' name"?
6. How can you enact "he who is least among you all ... he is the greatest"? How did you picture greatness as a child? As an adult? Now?
7. Of the issues listed here (comfort, social, obligations, family concerns), which one would tempt you not to follow Jesus?

Spend plenty of time in prayer. Ask God to speak to you about what is truly most important in your life right now. What is "great"? What is not so? In light of the passage, what in your usual week-to-week activities is worth doing and what is not? Where may God be calling you to shift or make an adjustment? Where may He be calling you to go forth and not look back? Allow plenty of silence in your prayer time... pray according to what you believe God may be bringing to mind and laying on your heart to pray. Go forth ready to be obedient this week. Be alert to how God may just surprise you.

\*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).