

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Stories that Transform”  
Complement to lesson on 07/19/2020 – “Having What it Takes”**

**ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. Name a few things that you enjoy following. How committed are you?  
(Sports teams / Bands / TV Shows / Book series / etc.)
2. Is it your kneejerk reaction to ignore an offense and move on, or seek revenge?

**MEMORIZE – Luke 9: 34-35**

As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him!”

**READ Luke 9**

**Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. What sticks out to you in this passage? What did you like? What didn’t you like?
  - a. What general observations can you make? Anything repeated, contrasted, or compared?
2. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
3. Jesus gave power and authority to the twelve disciples and sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God. (Verses 1-4) Do you identify as a “disciple” (follower) of Jesus? In what ways do you live out the call to “proclaim the kingdom” as you go?
4. Take another look at verses 4-6. What instruction does Jesus give for how the disciples are to handle when their message is not received? (Hint: Verse 5)
  - a. What does it mean to “shake off the dust from your feet?”
5. Verses 51-56 find the disciples facing just such a situation, as some villagers “did not receive (them)” because they were heading to Jerusalem. How did the disciples respond? (Hint: Verse 54) Was their attitude in line with the instruction they received? How so? (or not so)
6. Do our hearts break for those who aren’t citizens of the kingdom? Those who don’t know and love Jesus? Or are we tempted to “smack down” any opponents, perhaps not going so far as to call down fire on them, but to put them in their place and prove we are right?

## **Experiential activity – “Putting your hand to the plow”**

In the last verse of chapter 9, Jesus says that “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” Not many of us are farmers, or have ever attempted to plow a straight row... so what can we do to contextualize this truth and cement it in our minds?

Grab a child’s tricycle in the front driveway, a regular bicycle in a large open patch of yard, or a riding lawn tractor if you are particularly daring, and try to see how well you do “plowing a straight line” when taking a peek back over your shoulder. Are you confident you will reach your intended destination? Others in the group can yell or make noise to increase the distraction. Why is it easier to reach what we fix our eyes on? Could this resolve be what Scripture means when it states that Jesus “set his face” to Jerusalem? Have we “set our face” to the Father’s will for our lives?

Tailor this activity based on the age of those participating, the space and equipment available, and how daring you are feeling this week! Maybe tame it down a little bit and just try this walking in your living room... If you do opt for one of the more daring options, you might want a helmet, knee pads, and to make sure your homeowner’s policy is paid up!

**SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)**

Hosanna - <https://youtu.be/GQWI26M-a0Y>

Be Thou My Vision - <https://youtu.be/AJMjwWYFW8k>

Transformers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y1Kne1xi3c>

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought – Mennonite Hymnal #543 - [https://youtu.be/rpYM6Et\\_hVY](https://youtu.be/rpYM6Et_hVY)

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

### **Sending prayer based on the lesson:**

Father, how thankful we are to be chosen to join in the triumph of your inbreaking kingdom.

Jesus, we know that on our own we don’t have what it takes, and look to you for forgiveness of our past, redemption of our present, and hope for tomorrow.

Spirit, guide us as we seek to be transformed more and more into the likeness of Jesus each day.

Amen.