

Connect Discussion Guide 5.9.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Luke 9:18–27

Key Scriptures:

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

- Luke 9:18–27

And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

- Acts 4:7-12, 19-20

For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Galatians 2:19-20

Message Highlights:

- Jesus lived a life that flipped the world upside down and his life demands a response.
- Jesus asking, "Who do you say I am?" is the most important question we answer each day.
- To confess Jesus as the "Anointed One of God" who takes away the sins of the world, providing resurrection for now and for all eternity, is to commit to the immersed life.



- The Immersed life isn't about you being good enough, strong enough, disciplined enough, religious enough, etc.
- The immersed life is an invitation to surrender; to find peace, love, grace, strength, salvation, transformation: eternal life.

Conversation Starter:

• Do you find yourself in conversations about the immersed life often? Do you feel confident and equipped to initiate these conversations? If not, what barriers still stand in your way?

Discuss the Message:

- 1. In Luke 9:18-20, Jesus asks the disciples two questions: "Who do the crowds say that I am?" and "But who do you say that I am?" How do the disciples' responses differ to those two questions? Why is it important/expected that the disciples' perception of Jesus differed from that of the crowd's?
- 2. Discuss the implications of the reality that we experience freedom in Christ when we die to the world's perception of freedom. How would you explain this to someone who does not yet know God?
- 3. The immersed life is a transformed life; one that changes each of our motivations, our actions and our dreams. Peter is a great example of a deeply transformed vessel for Christ. Discuss some of the key areas of Peter's life that were transformed once he was immersed in Christ. Next, discuss how you have been transformed because of your relationship with Christ.
- 4. How did Peter and John set an example for how to present an invitation to relationship with Jesus in Acts 4:19-20? Are you ready to extend such an invite to others if the opportunity arose, or has anybody extended that invitation to you?
- 5. How will you respond to your invitation to the immersed life? If you haven't yet made this decision, how can you "test the waters", and if you have already made this decision, what areas of your life do you need to revisit to ensure you are serving God with sincerity and singleness of heart?

Pray:

Father in heaven, we confess your Son Jesus as the Christ, our Savior, Deliverer and exalted King. We ask that by the power of your Holy Spirit, you may grant us the grace to deny ourselves daily, to take up our cross and to follow him. We long to live a fully-immersed life, that we might experience and testify to others the eternal life Jesus offers, both now and for all eternity. Amen.

