

The Story Church - 2.19.23

A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 12 of 22: *Experiencing God*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: Why do you think experiencing God is so important and significant to the Christian faith?

Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience with God? If not, try to think of a “molehill” or ordinary experience in which you encountered God? Be as specific as possible.

READ Luke 9:28-29

28 About eight days after Jesus said this he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. **29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

What is the first step that precedes an experience with God?

What are some roadblocks you have in your prayer life?

How is prayer an entrance to worship?

READ Luke 9:30-32

30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. **31** They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. **32** Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

How does an experience with God awaken us in worship?

What is the difference between half hearted worship and wholehearted worship? How is true worship truly transformational?

READ Luke 9:33-36

33 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.)

34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” **36** 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.

What are the only two times that we hear the audible voice of God in the gospel of Luke? What’s the difference in the Father’s words from Jesus’ baptism to the transfiguration? Why is this significant for us?

What must we do before we descend from an experience with God? How does listening to God lead to obedience?

PRAY - AWAKEN IN WORSHIP - LISTEN

If you committed to this rhythm, how would this change your life?

* Find the full February Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources

