



# what's happening

## What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Vertical Edge Kick Off is Tuesday, September 10: Grades 7-8 @7-9pm** We're meeting together for a great night of fun, games, and inflatables! It's time to connect with old friends and make some new ones!  
***Attention parents!** There will be a short meeting from 8:40-9:00pm, it's a chance to meet Pastor Dan, learn about the ministry, and hear what's in store for this year.*
- **Jump 6 Kickoff is Monday, September 16.** We're meeting at a **special time tonight – 6:00-8:00pm!** Come out for a fun time, we'll have inflatables! Grab all your friends and we'll see you there! No pre-registration required.  
***Attention parents!** There will be a parent meeting at 7:40-8:00pm to meet Pastor Dan and hear about this year's ministry.*

## september 7/8 lesson

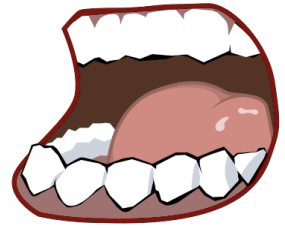
**Lesson:** **JESUS-CENTERED LIFE: Who Do You Say I Am?**

## Chew Time

Each week we will begin the class with a Bible reading time. This year we will begin with the book of **Luke**. Here is a snapshot on Luke:



- Little is known about Luke, the author of the books of Luke and Acts in the Bible. We do know he was a doctor and the only Gentile (non-Jew) to write any part of the New Testament



- Luke was the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Luke does not name himself in either of his books, but Paul mentions him by name in three epistles. Both Luke and Acts are addressed to the same person, Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). No one knows exactly who Theophilus was, but we know that Luke's purpose in writing the two companion books was so that Theophilus would know with certainty about the person and work of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:4).
- Luke was a close friend of Paul, who referred to him as "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). Perhaps Luke's interest in medicine is the reason his gospel gives such a high profile to Jesus' acts of healing.
- He was familiar with sailing and had a special love for recording geographical details. All this would indicate that Luke was a well-educated, observant, and careful writer.

## JESUS-CENTERED LIFE: Who Do You Say I Am?

Read **Luke 9:12-20**.

† *<sup>12</sup> Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place."*

*<sup>13</sup> But Jesus said, "You feed them."*

*"But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?" <sup>14</sup> For there were about 5,000 men there.*

*Jesus replied, "Tell them to sit down in groups of about fifty each." 15 So the people all sat down. 16 Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he kept giving the bread and fish to the disciples so they could distribute it to the people. 17 They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers!*

#### *Peter's Declaration about Jesus*

*18 One day Jesus left the crowds to pray alone. Only his disciples were with him, and he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"*

*19 "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other ancient prophets risen from the dead."*

*20 Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"*

*Peter replied, "You are the Messiah sent from God!"*

Jesus asked his disciples and now asks us: "Who do you say I am?" Jesus asked his disciples this question just after he'd fed the 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes. When it was evening and time for everyone to return home, Jesus gathered the disciples away from the crowds to debrief the experience with them. First, Jesus asked them what people were saying about him. He wanted to know who they said he was. The disciples told him that, basically, the people thought he was a prophet. Then Jesus got more personal. He asked the disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered by saying, "The Christ of God."

Even if you've read this story before, maybe you haven't paid much attention to the way we'd answer Jesus' question.

Think about & jot down some answers:

- How might getting closer to Jesus change your understanding of him?

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- How do we get closer to Him?

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- What's good about getting closer to Jesus, and what's hard about getting closer to him?

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- Why do you think people find it awkward to talk about religious beliefs?

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**Sum it Up:**

Here is the truth about our life with Christ:

Get to know Jesus well, because the more you know him, the more you'll love him, and the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him, and the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him, and the more you become like him, the more you become who God desires.

