Since the point $(\frac{1}{2}, -1)$ is on the graph, we have $-1 = \log_a(\frac{1}{2}) \iff a^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \iff a = 2$. Thus the function is $y = \log_{2} x$.

36. Since the point (9,2) is on the graph, we have $2 = \log_a 9 \iff a^2 = 9 \iff a = 3$. Thus the function is $y = \log_a x$.