

Call to Discipleship - Week 3 - Discussion Guide

“Carrying Your Own Cross”

Luke 14:27

INTRO / Opening Thought: Can you recall someone who claimed to be a Christian; but they seemed to be always moaning, groaning, griping, and complaining about how difficult their life & circumstances were?

Perhaps, they even used this phrase to describe their situation:

“Well, I suppose that is just my cross to bear.”

When you reflect upon that person’s outlook and attitude, do they strike you as an especially “Christlike” individual??

Can you even imagine Jesus “moaning, groaning, griping, or complaining” about any difficulty / hardship? Of course not!

Read Luke 14:27

1. Life is filled with many hardships.

What are some difficulties / hardships / burdens that you have dealt with in your life?

In what ways were you tempted to “carry” those burdens yourself?

You do NOT need to carry those burdens alone.

Jesus is well aware of all your troubles. He knows & He cares.

Jesus invites you to give your burdens to Him.

Describe a time when you felt the Lord helping you through a difficult time.

2. However, since we’ve established that “Your Cross” is NOT a burden or hardship that you must bear – What IS it then???

Historically, a Cross was an instrument of DEATH.

Crucifixion was a method for executing convicted criminals.

Although “Capital Punishment” is a very controversial topic, it has been practiced by many societies across the centuries.

Discuss some of the methods that have been used throughout history.
Were some more “humane” than others?

How does Crucifixion compare to other methods of execution?

3. **When Jesus states that, as His disciples, we must Carry Our Cross, He is Calling us to Die to Self.**

We must allow our own personal agenda to be put to DEATH.

Read Luke 9:22-26

Jesus states that we must choose to take up our cross DAILY.

Describe something that may be very important to you, that - **Every Single Day** - you must make the conscious decision to give it over to the Lord.

Read Romans 12:1-2

Someone once said that “living sacrifices” have a tendency to crawl back off the altar. That’s why we have to “carry our cross” DAILY.

What is something that you have difficulty LETTING GO?

4. **Carrying Your Cross will be Very Costly**

Read Luke 14:25-33

- Jesus emphatically stated that, in order to be His disciple, you must “*give up everything you have.*”
- How are we to interpret that statement?

- What would that mean for you personally?

5. **Jesus said that You CANNOT be His Disciple Unless You Choose to Carry Your Cross**

The word translated “**Disciple**” is used 268 times in the New Testament. In those days, a disciple was a student / learner who lived with or traveled along with their Rabbi / Teacher. That’s why the very first thing that Jesus said to The Twelve was often the 2 simple words: “**Follow Me.**”

Each of The Twelve left something behind to follow Jesus. Reflect on their sacrifice.

Peter

James

John

Matthew

etc.

CONCL: A contrast between one man who was unwilling to let go of the world & one who did so.

1) **the Rich Young Ruler**

Read Mark 10:17-31

In verse 21, we read that “**Jesus looked at him and loved him.**”

- 2) **the Prophet Elisha** - He left everything to follow his mentor, Elijah, & as a result, he saw many MIRACLES.
- 3) What is something that you have been clinging to that could be holding you back from experiencing all that Jesus intends for you as His disciple.
- 4) What can you do THIS WEEK to begin the process of LETTING GO of it?