

# FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families



## Count the Cost

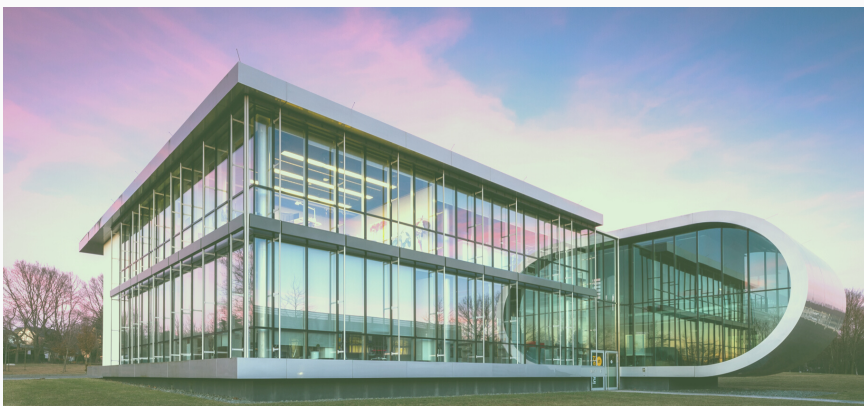
SIS. CRISTA TURNER

*And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ...So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.*

LUKE 14:25-33 NLT

Discipleship, raising a godly generation, and being a part of the Kingdom of God all have a cost and are all daily, and lifelong, pursuits. Jesus put a price tag on being one of His disciples: everything. When we make the decision to follow Christ, we are giving up ownership of every other thing in our lives. This includes all our possessions, our relationships, our future plans, our dreams - EVERYTHING! When we lay our life down and make a commitment to live for the Lord, we are committing to building His Kingdom. We also commit to instilling a love for Him and His Word into the next generation.

When building a physical building, we must have a vision of what the completed project will look like. We must persevere through the hardships that will surely arise, make continued investments to see the project through to completion, and enlist the help of the best skilled workers we can afford. The same is true in the Kingdom of God. As disciples who have sold all to follow Him, we receive a vision of what He wants to do in our lives, persevere through all the trials that come our way, invest daily in His Kingdom, and bring all our talents together to see the Kingdom of God prosper.



## Application

The call to be a disciple is universal yet deeply personal. We must each take up our cross and follow Him every day. We all have a unique history with different experiences, but we must all come to the same cross and lay our lives down so God can have His way in and through us. When we present ourselves to the Lord as instruments He can use, only then do we become a building "fitly framed together... an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

## Discussion

1. Do you have a vision of what God wants to do in and through you, your children, and in His kingdom? If not, how do you think you can receive that vision from Him?
2. What are some of the costs that we all pay in order to fulfill His call on our lives?
3. Read Philippians 3:8. What does this Scripture reveal about how Paul felt about the things he would give up in order to know Christ more?
4. Do you have "master builders" in your life that can help you be all God has called you to be? Who are they?

## Prayer Focus

Pray that we would receive a clear vision of what God wants to do in our lives.

Pray a prayer of repentance, asking God to forgive us of the times we held back and kept ourselves from Him.

Pray for God's grace to enable us to commit all we have to the Lord.

Pray that God would flow through us, using us as conduits for His glory.