

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** Storyteller  
**Message Title:** Counting the Cost  
**Speaker:** Robert Conn  
**Date:** January 14, 2018

### UP NEXT

- **re|engage** - Come check out the first night of our Marriage Program with no commitment! If you want to stick around, you'll be able to. Our first meeting is Tuesday, January 16th. Visit [reality.church/reengage](http://reality.church/reengage).
- **Financial Peace University** - Also starting January, 16<sup>th</sup> is Financial Peace University. Debt is normal... be weird! Sign up online at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events).
- **60:60 Experience** - Download the **Soul Revolution** App for iOS and Android today! With every hourly reminder, we pause to evaluate how connected and responsive we've stayed the last hour, stop to experience His loving presence in the moment, and reorient to improve our connection with God in the next hour.
- **Prayer List** - People need prayer and you could be the one praying for them. Sign up to be on the prayer list by email Sherri Sahs at [kssahs85@gmail.com](mailto:kssahs85@gmail.com)

### MAIN IDEA

Everyone's cost is not the same, but everyone's cost is great.

### INTRODUCTION

- The gospel of Jesus is free to all. But being free to all does not mean it will not cost us anything. While the Bible is very clear that we are "*Justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 3:24), it is also clear that it involves a cost (Luke 14:25-35).
- Consider the following words by Charles Spurgeon... "*Consider a moment; here is a blind man sitting by the wayside begging; he asks to have his eyes opened. Will it cost him anything? No, the Savior would not accept all the gold in the world for the cure! He will freely open his eyes, but when they are opened it will cost that blind man something! Obtaining his sight, he will be called upon to discharge the duties of one who has eyes; he will not be allowed, any longer, to sit there and beg, or, if he tries to do so, he will lose the sympathy which is bestowed upon blindness. Now that his eyes are opened he must use them, and earn his own bread; it will cost him something, for he will now be conscious of the darkness of the night which he knew nothing of before! And there are sad sights which now he must look upon which never grieved him before, for often what the eyes do not see, the heart does not know. A man cannot gain a faculty except at some expense; he that increases knowledge or the means of gaining it increases both sorrow and duty!*"
- It has been stated before with regards to faith in Jesus, "It's all free, but it will cost you your life"

### DISCUSSION

- In case you missed it, read the above quote by Charles Spurgeon and discuss with each other.
- How is it possible for something to be 'free' and yet at the same time 'costly'? Can you think of any other scenarios in life where something is free and yet costly?

- Imagine this scenario. You're at lunch with a friend who isn't particularly known for their faith. You're not even certain if they've ever been to church. They get this serious look on their face, lean in close and say,

[“I was reading a book about faith the other day and it said, “*When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.*” Is that right? Is that what it means to be a Christian?”]

- How do you respond to them? Is there scriptural evidence to prove or disprove the statement?
- Have someone read **(Luke 14:25-27)**
  - Does this passage sound a little abrasive to you? Why would Jesus say this to a crowd of people? Why would Jesus say this at all?
  - What did Jesus mean by “if you want to be my disciple?”
- Have someone read **(Luke 14:28-35)**
  - Can a person be a believer and not a disciple? Why or why not?
  - What does it mean to *give up all his own possessions*?
- What is something you feel you have ‘given up’ in order to follow Jesus?
- What is the message behind the last two verses about tasteless salt **(Luke 14:34-35)**? How does it tie the message together?

## APPLY IT .....

### • Ask the Question

- Ask the question, “What does it mean for me to bid farewell to everything?”
- What are some things in your life that you could stand to bid farewell to?
- Keep in mind that bidding something farewell may not mean a removal. It could mean a cease of reliance upon.

### • Cross the Line

- When you find the answer to the above question, commit to crossing the line. Cross the line from safety to danger, from security to surrender, from reliance on things to reliance on God's provision.
- Why would God not want you to rely on your own abilities, possessions, and giftedness?