

Study 3: The Cost of Commitment

Read: Luke 14:25–35

Memory Verse: Luke 9:23

The Big Idea

Following Jesus is worth everything, but following Him will cost us something.

Start Here

Imagine that a famous person you really admire suddenly invited you to follow them everywhere.

You'd probably be excited.

But what if they told you that following them meant giving up your plans, your comfort, your reputation, and even some of the things you love most?

Would you still follow?

During Jesus' ministry, huge crowds followed Him. Some were curious. Some wanted to see miracles. Some wanted to be healed. Others simply went along with the crowd.

But Jesus wanted people to understand something:

Following Him isn't just about being interested in Him. It's about being committed to Him.

Read Luke 14:25–35

Jesus uses some incredibly strong language in this passage. He tells His followers that they must "hate" even their family and their own life.

Jesus isn't telling us to despise our families. Rather, He is using strong language to show that our love and loyalty to Him must come before every other relationship.

Then Jesus talks about carrying a cross.

The cross wasn't a piece of jewelry in Jesus' day. It was an instrument of execution.

So when Jesus talks about taking up our cross, He's talking about **denying ourselves and being willing to give up our own way in order to follow Him.**

That's a serious commitment.

Jesus even gives examples of someone building a tower and a king preparing for war. Both need to count the cost before beginning.

Following Jesus is the same way.

We shouldn't follow Jesus simply because it's popular, because our parents are Christians, or because we want the benefits of being a Christian.

We follow Jesus because He is worth giving our lives to.

Talk About It

1. What do you think Jesus means when He says we must put Him above our family and even our own lives?

2. What are some ways that following Jesus may cost us?

3.

Live It Out

Jesus says that His followers are like salt.

Salt was valuable because it preserved food and added flavor. Jesus' followers are meant to have an impact on the world around them.

But Jesus warns about salt that loses its usefulness.

The point is simple:

If we claim to follow Jesus but never allow that commitment to change how we live, something is wrong.

Take a few minutes and answer this question honestly:

"What is one thing God may be asking me to change because I follow Jesus?"

Maybe it's a relationship. Maybe it's an attitude. Maybe it's something you watch or listen to. Maybe it's the way you spend your money or time. Maybe it's an ambition you've been putting ahead of God. Maybe it's simply an area where you've been choosing your own way.

You don't need to change everything today.

Identify one thing. Surrender it to Jesus. Then take one step of obedience.

And parents, don't be afraid to answer this question yourself. Your teenager may be much more willing to be honest if you are willing to say, *"Here's an area where God is challenging me, too."*

Pray Together

Memory Verse

Luke 9:23

"Then he said to them all, 'If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.'"