

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOLLOWING JESUS NO MATTER THE COST

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

“²¹ And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, ²² saying, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’ Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus ²³ And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.’ Luke 9:21-26 (ESV)

“²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.’ Luke 14:25-33 (ESV)

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Share a high and a low.
- Do you enjoy uplifting movies, or gritty movies?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 9:21-26. In this passage, what’s the cost to follow Jesus?
- Read Luke 9:57-62. Cultural knowledge of Jewish burial practices explains why Jesus is not being cruel in verse 59, rather calling the man on his excuse. In this passage, what’s the cost to follow Jesus?
- Read Luke 24:25-33. Jesus uses hyperbole to make a point. According to this passage, what is the cost of following Jesus?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Use a question from N.T. Wright’s “Luke: For Everyone” (62-65; 89).
- Why do you think Jesus felt the crowds following Him deserved a lesson on the true cost of discipleship?
- Have American Christians forgotten that cost is required to following Jesus? Sometimes we seem pre-occupied with fighting culture, getting our way, and ensuring our own safety.
- Disciples embrace the “whole counsel of God,” both Law & Gospel. How should hard teachings like this be addressed in our prayers?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- A mark of a disciple is following Jesus even when it’s hard. What’s a sacrifice for God that you can embrace this week?
- What’s something God is calling you to be “all in” on?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Jesus, thank you for sacrificing yourself, and paying the cost to redeem me from sin’s grip. Help me to understand that true discipleship is more fandom, but a life of following the sometimes challenging example of Jesus. Holy Spirit give me the faith to embrace the cost while living on mission for you. Amen.”

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three for 15 minutes:

1. What has God been teaching you in His word this week? Is there anything you need to repent of?
2. What’s something you’d like someone else to check in with you about this week?
3. How’s your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection)
4. Pray for one another.