

Jesus Said What?!
Wk 3 of 4: Worth the Cost
May 9 & 10, 2020

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

Help students identify what they need to give up in order to fully give their whole lives to Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:25-33 &
 Matthew 10:38-39

THINK ABOUT THIS

This story has 2 big "SAY WHAT?" parts to it:

1. The shocking statement Jesus drops: "if you want to be my disciple...(by comparison) hate everyone..."
2. Following Jesus is not always going to be easy.

First, we have to put Him first. We have to begin looking at our life through the lens of Jesus. We have to practice thinking like Him, speaking like Him, and doing things like Him. We have to be willing to give up *everything*.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Being Jesus' disciple is going to cost you everything, but it's worth it.

GET THEM TALKING

What is one thing you feel you absolutely cannot live without?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that cost you a lot but was worth it? (Maybe you saved up for a year for concert tickets, or did extra chores to earn something?)

READ LUKE 14:25-33 and answer the following questions:

2. Jesus uses two analogies at the end. What is a modern-day example of a middle school student rushing into something without thinking?
3. In your own words, what is the overall point Jesus making here?
4. What are different things that following Jesus can cost us?
5. How can these things hold us back from fully committing to Jesus?

READ MATTHEW 10:32-40 and answer the following questions:

6. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Take up your cross?"
7. What are some examples of someone doing that?
8. Re-read verse 39. What are some things we "cling to" in our lives?
9. How can we lay down those things at Jesus' feet?
10. What does Jesus mean when He says we need to lose our lives to find them?

NEXT STEP

Write down something that takes your time or energy on one side of an index card. On the other side, write down how you can replace that thing with something that helps you grow in your relationship with Jesus. This week, try to do that at home every day. Hand the card to your leader to pray for you this week.

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students their prayer requests and close in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

LUKE 14:25-33 (NLT)

²⁵ A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶ “If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “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? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’

³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

MATTHEW 10:38-39 (NLT)

³⁸ If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.”