

Life Group #6: Amazing Worth
Luke 14:25-33

Objectives: We want students to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We want to honestly count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus. We want students to see that Christ is worth everything, even their lives.

Launch Use your own words... (5 minutes)
When you see an incredible offer (like free iPad!) that have a lot of fine print at the bottom, what goes through your mind?

One of the things I love about Jesus is that He does not have any fine print. Tonight we are going to look at a passage of scripture where Jesus clearly lays out what it means to follow Him. His words are not always easy to take, but they are honest and clear. Pray.

Explore

Read Luke 14:25-33

Observation questions

- **What is the “big idea” of the passage?**
How do you know? (*What it takes to be His disciple. We know because He mentions it 3 times in the passage*)
- **How would you define the word “disciple”?** (*a learner, a follower or a student*)
- **Who is Jesus speaking to in the passage?** (*large crowds*)
- **Why is this important for us to notice?**
(*What He is about to teach about discipleship is for all people, not just those that are already committed*)

This passage undoubtedly contains some of the hardest teaching of Jesus in the Bible.

- **What is attractive about Jesus in this passage?**
- **What do you not like about Jesus?**

Interpretation Questions

- **What words or phrases do we need to look closer at in order to understand the passage?** (*hate, renounce, carry our cross*)
- **What does Jesus mean that we are to “hate” the people we are called to love in other places?** (*Jesus is using hyperbole to drive his point to the heart. This was a common phrase in the day of Jesus used to communicate loving something more by comparison. In this case, our love for Jesus is*

so much stronger than the love of our parents that it seems like we hate our parents. Read Matthew 10:37-39.)

- **Why would Jesus use such a shocking word then?** (*what He is teaching is not natural for us, so He needs to get our attention*)
- **What does it mean to “carry our cross”?** (*The cross was an instrument of death. Jesus is saying that to be His disciple, we need to follow Him to the cross and die with him. We need to give up living for ourselves and instead live for Him*)
- **What does it mean to “give up everything”?** (*At its essence, it means that there is nothing that you count as more valuable or precious than Jesus. Jesus is claiming to be more valuable than anything in life. We reorient our values toward the thing of greatest worth- being called into God’s Family.*)
- **So, to summarize what does this passage teach about being a disciple of Jesus?** *I suggest that you record these answers on a board so everyone can see them. Later we will ask people to “count the cost” and it will help to see these listed out.*
- Discipleship is not optional. *He offers it to the crowd and the apostles.*
- Discipleship is about loving Jesus above all else.
- Discipleship involves placing everything second to Jesus. *This includes family, finances, sex lives, your time, possessions, etc...*
- Discipleship involves living out your true identity. *Jesus does not say to take up his teachings and follow Him. Jesus says to take up the cross and follow Him. The cross was an instrument of death. Discipleship means our identity is rooted in us “dying” and receiving new life from Jesus. Read Romans 6 for more on this.*
- There is a cost to being His disciple and we need to count it. *The implied answer to his question “which of you” is no one. Only*

fools would not count the cost of building before starting... In the same way, Jesus wants us to count the cost of being His disciple.

Apply (DO NOT SKIP THIS!)

- **As you count the cost of being a disciple of Jesus, what will keep you from following Him?**
- **Why would a person become a disciple of Jesus? What are the benefits?** *(They would need to see that He is of greater worth than anything else. They would have to see what they would lose if they don't become a disciple. They would need to see how amazing He is. They would need to see that we can trust Him because he died for us).*
- **We do not want to ignore the fact that there are great costs to be a disciple of Jesus. There are also great costs of not being a disciple of Jesus. What are the “costs” of not being a disciple of Jesus? What do you lose if you do not become a disciple?** *(abundant life- John 10:10; eternal life- John 3:16-18; rest for your souls- Matthew 11:28-30 and a relationship with Jesus Himself...)*
- **In small groups- what is one step you need to take this week to grow as a disciple of Jesus? Or one step to help you consider being a disciple of Jesus if you are not? Is there a right God is asking you to surrender? What is something you value more than Jesus?** *[take time to get to know God? truly count the cost? Surrender something you are holding on to? Renew your identity by looking to the cross (Read Romans 6)?]*

Announce

-