

STORY POINT:
Jesus taught
about God's
kingdom.

KEY PASSAGE:
John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

SMALL GROUP QUESTION & COLORING:

"When was a time you saved up money to buy something on your own. What did you buy? How did you decide it was worth it?"

SAY: We often make choices about how to use our money, time, or talents. When we choose to do one thing, we are also giving up other things. Today we will talk about some of the things people give up to gain Jesus. But gaining Jesus is always worth it. We can't buy Jesus with money or earn him by doing good things but sometimes we have to say no to other things to say yes to Jesus.

SMALL GROUP OPENING ACTIVITY:

Supplies: play money, assorted toys for kids to purchase

Provide play money and allow children to "shop" for toys and other classroom items. Assign a basic cost to each item as a child brings it to you, such as "That book will cost you five bills" or "Those markers will cost you ten coins." Do not worry about actual values; just help the children count each piece of money as they give it to you. As children bring you another item, say "That will cost everything you have! Is that worth it to you?"

SAY: A cost is how much you have to give up, like money, to get something you want or need. Was it hard when you had to give up all of your money to get something you wanted? That's a harder choice to make! Today we will hear about something Jesus said would cost everything but would be worth it. He wanted people to think about the cost and choose carefully. Listen to the Bible story to find out what Jesus taught.

LARGE GROUP BIBLE STORY: The Sermon on the Mount | Matthew 5-7

Many people wanted to follow Jesus. Large crowds followed Him around. One man said, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." Jesus told the man, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down."

Another disciple said, "Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go and bury my father." Jesus replied, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus told the crowds that following Him would not be easy. "Anyone who comes to Me must be willing to leave everything," he said. "You must love Me most of all—more than your own life! Anyone who thinks life should be easy cannot follow Me," Jesus said.

Jesus wanted the people to choose carefully. He told them a story: "If you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and see what you would need to make the tower. If you did not, you would build the foundation and could not finish. People would laugh at you."

Then He told them another story: "If you were a king, you would not go to war against another king without thinking about if your army is great enough to win the war. If you don't have enough men to fight, you would send some men to ask for peace before the fighting even started."

Jesus wanted people to think about the cost. "If you are not willing to give up everything you have, you cannot follow Me," Jesus said.

Jesus said, "Whoever gives up his life for Me will find true life. What good is it to have everything you want in the world if you give up life with God forever?"

Christ Connection: Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. Jesus gave up His own life to rescue people from sin and give us life with God forever.

BONUS MATERIAL

SMALL GROUP Big Picture Question:

What did Jesus teach when he was on earth? *Jesus taught about God and his Kingdom.*

SMALL GROUP Catechism Question:

Q: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit? A: That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son, and that God grants him irrevocably to all who believe.

SMALL GROUP CRAFT: Following Jesus Flip Flop

Supplies: foam, pipe cleaners, buttons, markers, scissors

1. Provide kids with foam and markers to trace both their feet on the foam sheet.
2. Draw a flip flop shape around each foot tracing.
3. Give kids scissors to cut out their flip flops.
4. Punch three holes in the flip flops.
5. Give them two pipe cleaners and some buttons to put through the holes and make the flip flop thongs.
6. Write on the flip flops things they say yes to when they follow Jesus. What things do they say no to as well?

SAY: Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." Jesus taught that following Him is not easy. It requires commitment and sacrifice. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. True life is found in Jesus, who gave up His life to rescue us from sin and death. He is worth it.

SMALL GROUP PRAYER: Lord God, we confess that there are times we doubt and wonder if following You is worth it. Strengthen our hearts and remind us of the truth. You are worth it. Anything we give up in this life and any sufferings we face for the sake of the gospel are nothing compared to the glory You will give us. Thank You for Your Word and Your Spirit. Amen.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Did many people want to follow Jesus?** *(yes)*
2. **Did Jesus teach that following Him is easy?** *(No, Jesus taught that following Him is not easy.)*
3. **Why would Jesus teach that following Him is not easy?** *(He wanted people to think and choose carefully.)*
4. **Is following Jesus worth it?** *(yes, always even if you have to lose something)*
5. **What did Jesus promise to those who give up everything to follow Him?** *(life with God forever)*



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