



October 28, 2020
Small Group 4th - 5th grade

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS | *Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14*

Memory Verse: ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
JOHN 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Bottom Line: I do what Jesus says even when it is hard.

Christ Connection: 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.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

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Next Steps As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What is your next step? You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe: believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized: show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray: read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others: serve others at home, at school, and at church.

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect (40 Minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Bible Skills and Discussion

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do: Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 9. Explain that today's story is found in Matthew and Luke. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 9:23-25. Jesus spoke to His disciples when they were near the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was clear that following Him is not easy. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. That's what it means to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus. True life is found in Jesus, who gave up His life to rescue us from sin and death. He is worth it.

Discussion Questions

- **Jesus said the Son of Man has no place to what?** (lay His head, Matthew 8:20)
- **What did Jesus say a person must take up to follow Him?** (his cross, Matthew 16:24)
- **What did Jesus say about the king going to war?** (He must consider whether his army can win. Luke 14:31)
- **Why do you think we must be willing to give up our family and even our life to follow Jesus?**
Guide kids to see that Jesus is the most important. If we truly love our families, we will want to put Jesus first so that we can help them see that He is best for them. If we love anything, even families or other good things, more than we love Jesus, those things have become idols.
- **What are some ways you might suffer for Jesus' sake?** Discuss what can happen if kids stand up for what's right against friends or other kids at school. Discuss missionaries who move away from home. Talk about places where Christians are not allowed to worship God and might be arrested or killed for their faith.
- **What do we gain by following Jesus?** Help kids think about the rewards we have through Jesus, both in this life and the next. Remind them that Jesus gives us peace, love, joy, and wisdom.
- **What do you think Jesus meant when He said that anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be His disciple?** Explain to kids that Jesus later told His disciples that because the world had persecuted Him, they would be persecuted. Believers should expect to suffer in a fallen world. We can endure suffering, fixing our eyes on Jesus and looking forward to eternity with Him. (Read John 15:18-20)
- **Why is it important to understand the cost of following Jesus?** Help kids recognize that following Jesus without understanding the cost may make it difficult to persevere in trials. Emphasize that though Jesus does not offer us an easy life, He offers us Himself. He is better than anything the world offers. (Read 1 Peter 4:12-13)
- **How can we encourage others who aren't sure if following Jesus is worth it?** Prompt kids to consider the importance of praying for others. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to follow Jesus. Kids can also point others to Jesus, remembering that suffering is temporary and one day Jesus will make all things right. (Read- Hebrews 12:1-3)

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, sticky notes with words of Memory Verse written on several notes

What You Do:

Before the session, write the memory verse as words or phrases on separate sticky notes. Scatter the notes around the room. Display the memory verse poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 14:24-26 together.

Challenge kids to find and collect the parts of the memory verse on the sticky notes around the room. Invite kids to work together to arrange the memory verse in the correct order. When kids finish, lead them to read the memory verse together.

What You Say: "What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him. Jesus' ministry on earth lasted for three years. Jesus promised that when He left, He would send the Holy Spirit to help them - and He did!"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do: Distribute journal pages and pencils. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What do we learn about following God from today's passage?
- What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?
- Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?
- What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)

When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and

give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.

- Pray for your group. 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.