



October 28, 2020
Small Group Kinder- 3rd 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.

Play Video

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 the books of Matthew and Luke. Discuss the division these books are in and why we use Bible divisions (Old and New Testaments- to separate Jesus life from the law). Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it. Some people hate Christians and think we are foolish and wrong. Even though they are enemies, we love them and trust Jesus through hard times. No situation is so difficult that God cannot use it for His glory and your good. He is worthy.

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.

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, numbered cube(die), square stickers for die

What You Do:

Assign to each face of the die a way to read the memory verse, such as quietly, loudly, in a deep voice, in a high-pitched voice, in an operatic voice, in a robot voice. Invite a kid to roll the die and lead the group saying the memory verse in the designated way rolled on the die. Play multiple times, allowing other kids to roll and lead.

What You Say: " Jesus spoke the memory verse to His disciples before He went to the cross. Jesus wanted them to know what to expect. Jesus knew that they would have trouble remembering all the wonderful things He taught about God and God's kingdom. That's why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us. He lives within us when we have faith in Jesus, and He helps us understand and remember God's truth.

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.