



October 4, 2020  
1's and 2's

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

**Memory Verse:** <sup>25</sup>“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>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.*

### Leader Notes:

#### CONTEXT

The benefits of following Jesus are wonderful: justification from sin, lifelong sanctification, and adoption into the family of God. But following Jesus also comes at a price. People had waited so long for the promised Messiah to come into the world, so many were eager to follow Him. Yes as Jesus taught, He urged people to consider the cost of being His disciple.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus explained to one disciple that following Him might involve giving up worldly comforts. He told another disciple that following Him should be higher priority than anything else- even one's commitment to his parents. (See Matt 8:18-22) In Matthew 16 and Luke 9, Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”

Jesus shared two examples in Luke 14 of people who must count the cost of doing something. If a person is building a tower, he must first calculate the cost. If he begins the project and is unable to complete it, onlookers will ridicule him. In a similar way, a king counts the cost of going to war before sending his army. If he is not able to oppose the enemy, he doesn't foolishly send out a small group to fight a larger group. Instead, he seeks peace.

Many who wanted to follow Jesus changed their minds. Jesus even asked the twelve disciples if they wanted to turn away as well. Peter answered, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68)

Paul acknowledged the difficulty of following Jesus in 2 Corinthians 4 but kept his eyes on eternity: “For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an incomparable eternal weight of glory” (v.17) As you teach, emphasize that following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it.

### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it is always best.
- If we want to live for Him then we must do what He says.
- When what we want to do is different than Jesus' Words, we should do what He says.
- **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.*

### Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** “Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today.”



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### **What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"Many people wanted to follow Jesus. A man told Jesus, "I will follow You wherever You go." Jesus told the man, "Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down." Another man told Jesus, "I will follow You, but first let me bury my father." Jesus told the man, "Follow me, and let the dead bury the dead." Jesus told his friends, "Anyone who comes to Me must be willing to leave everything and follow Me. 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?" Jesus was telling His friends that His followers must love Him most of all.

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

Check diapers.

## **Activities**

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

### **1. Fingerplay and Art**

**What You Need:** Jesus is Greater Printable (1 per kid), crayons, stickers

**What You Do:**

- Do this fingerplay with the kids first:
  - Here is a nest for a robin. [cup palms together]
  - Here is a hive for a bee [clasp hands together]
  - Here is a den for a bunny [ make a hole with clasped hands]
  - Here is a home for me. [ Make a roof shape with both hands overhead]
  - Then pass out printable and ask kids to stick stickers in the blanks for what they think goes there.
  - Remind kids that Jesus is greater than our homes or money.

**What You Say** " Jesus taught about God. Many people wanted to follow Jesus, but they did not want to leave home. Jesus told people that they must love Him most of all to follow Him."

### **2. Practice signing the Memory Verse**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "All (*sign for all*) this I have spoken (*sign for spoken*) while still with you (*Sign for here*).<sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit (*Sign for Holy Spirit*), whom the Father(*sign for God*) will send in my name(*Sign for Jesus*), will teach(*sign for teach*) you all things and will remind (*Sign for think*) you of everything(*Sign 'all I said'*) I have said to you. **JOHN 14:25-26**
- **What You Say** " Remembering everything you learn can be hard, but God's Word is too important to forget! So Jesus didn't just teach us about God, He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us remember. Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach and remind us of God's Word!"



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**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Pray:** “Lord, thank You for the amazing gift of Your Son. Help us trust You and understand that nothing we could ever sacrifice to obey You compares to the wonderful and eternal life available in Jesus. Amen.”
- Send activity page home with kids and tell family that we are learning John 14:26 as our memory verse during this series. They can practice at home.