

Making disciples: The cost of discipleship sermon notes

discussion guide

based on **Luke 14:25-33** (Linked to sermon of 03/04/2022)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



Worship: Either listen to “I have decided to follow Jesus” <https://youtu.be/S8jvfdDtoqY> or read Psalm 16. Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His word and thanking Him for His loving sacrifice for us.

Head: Read Luke 14:25-33 together at least twice (perhaps choose a few different translations). Then discuss the following:

1. How did the different translations help or hinder your understanding of the passage?
2. What aspects of this passage stand out for you and why?
3. What do you find difficult about this passage?
4. To whom is this spoken?
5. Do you think he is trying to put them off?

Lena explained in her sermon that when Jesus said “hate mother and father” (v26), the Hebrew verb really means to not put your mother and father before your devotion to Jesus. It is worth reading Matthew 10:37-39 to gain a better understanding of Jesus’ meaning.

6. Does the above help you in your understanding of what Jesus is saying?
7. Does it make Jesus’ expectations of the cost of discipleship any easier?
8. Which two metaphors/images does Jesus use to explain the cost of following him? Can you relate to them? If not, can you think of any more contemporary images which might work?

9. Read Luke 12: 13-21 How does this parable relate to Jesus' message?
10. Verse 33 is probably the most challenging verse in the passage. Should we take it literally? If not, what could that mean for you and I?
11. Do we sometimes make Christianity sound too easy?

Heart:

Hand out paper to everyone in the group. If you have time beforehand, photocopy a large plain cross to give out. If not, people can draw their own.

In Lena's sermon she pointed out that our cross to bear is not about illness or annoying family and friends but about things that Jesus is asking us to take up as part of the cost of following him. Take some time for quiet contemplation and as you feel led by God, begin to write down anything that you feel Jesus is asking you to take up, for example it may be to establish a daily Bible study routine or to pray daily for a friend or family member to come to know Jesus. It may be to be bolder in sharing your faith or beginning to use a gift that God has given you to benefit others. Whatever it is, add it to the sheet. You may need to take it away and spend some quiet time alone with God to do this more fully.

On the other side of the paper write JOY. Add to it all the things that bring you joy about following Jesus. As Lena said, discipleship is costly but the cost of NOT following Jesus is even more so!

Hands:

In small groups, spend some time praying for one another on the basis of what you feel God is calling you to take up, as well as praising God for the joys of following Jesus. Pray too for other prayer needs.

" He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" Jim Eliot.