DISCUSSION GUIDE Get Into The Word

Leader Edition



Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Discussion Questions
- 3 Application Questions
- 4 Question for Families, NT 260 Reading
- 5 Resources
- 7 Commentary
- 8 Sermon Notes

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Introduction

In Luke 14:25-33, we will dive into how Jesus calls us to consider the true cost of discipleship. As we explore this passage, we are challenged to evaluate our priorities and allegiances. Jesus emphasizes that being His disciple means placing Him above all else, even our closest relationships and comforts. We have to ask ourselves what it means to bear our own cross and the practical steps we can take to live committed lives of faith, fully engaged with our spiritual journey and relationship with Christ.

Disciple Measure

Spirit-Led Follower: What has had your attention, thoughts, and energy recently?

Discussion Questions Notes: Counting the Cost of Following Jesus **HIGHLIGHT** Have someone read aloud... Luke 14:24-33 **EXPLAIN** Discuss the following questions... **Opening Question:** Share a time when you had to make a significant commitment or investment in something. How did you prepare for it, and what was the outcome? 1. What does it mean to "hate" family members in the context of following Jesus? How does this challenge our understanding of priorities? 2. How does understanding the Hebrew context of "hate" meaning "to love less" change your perspective on this passage? 3. What are some potential costs of following Jesus that people should be aware of before committing? 4. How can we distinguish between being part of the "crowd" and being a true disciple of Jesus? Have someone read aloud **John 6:60-65**. 5. Why do you think Jesus consistently challenges large crowds with difficult teachings like this?

Application Questions Notes:

APPLY

Discuss the following questions...

- 1. In what areas of your life do you find it most challenging to put Christ first? Why?
- 2. In what ways have you experienced both the challenges and rewards of following Christ?
- 3. What are some ways you would describe your current level of commitment to Christ?
- 4. Choose one spiritual discipline (e.g., prayer, Bible study, fasting) to focus on for the next month to grow as a disciple.
- 5. How can you share your faith journey with someone this week, including both the challenges and blessings of following Christ?

RESPOND

Force for Good: How can you help others around you take another step closer to Jesus?

Next Sunday, 1/26, we have the opportunity to help men take their next step closer at the LH Men's Conf. You can scan the OR code to find out more and volunteer.



Praver:

Pray to thank Jesus for calling us to be His disciples. Help us to count the cost and commit fully to following Jesus. Give us the strength to put Jesus first in all areas of our lives. May we experience the deep joy and peace that comes from true discipleship.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

Luke 14:24-33

What do you think Jesus means when he says we should love him more than our family?

Guide for Parents: For younger children, explain that Jesus wants to be the most important in our hearts, even more important than things or people we love. For older children, discuss how this means putting Jesus first in making choices and living our lives.

Why do you think Jesus talks about thinking carefully before deciding to follow him? What does this teach us about making big decisions?

Guide for Parents: Encourage younger children to share examples of big decisions they have made or seen, like choosing a school activity. For older children, talk about the importance of understanding responsibilities and being prepared to commit to decisions fully.

How can we show that we are true followers of Jesus in our daily lives? Guide for Parents: Help younger kids brainstorm simple actions like sharing, being kind, or praying. With older children, discuss more complex ideas like showing honesty, helping others in need, or standing up for what's right, even when it's hard.

NT 260

WEEK: 4

- Luke 16
- Luke 17
- Luke 18
- Luke 19
- Luke 20

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:7-8

Resources

Resources to Listen To

BEMA Podcast - Luke Ordered



Marty Solomon dives into an overview of the book of Luke. Scan the OR code or click here.

(22 min)

Resources to Watch

Importance of H.E.A.R. Journals - Sermon +



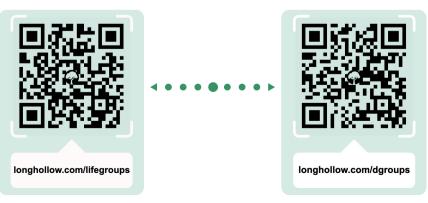
To learn more about the H.E.A.R. model of journaling check out Pastor Robby's Sermon+ click here. (45 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



Commentary

Notes: A Bit of Background In Luke 14:25-33, we find Jesus speaking to a large crowd about what it truly means to follow him. This passage takes place during a time when Jesus was gaining a lot of attention for his teachings and miracles. Many people were excited about following him, but not everyone understood what that fully meant. Jesus wants to make clear that being his disciple requires a deep commitment. During this period, Jewish people were living under Roman rule and faced many religious and societal expectations. Family ties were extremely important in this culture, often seen as central to one's identity and support system. With this in mind, when Jesus talks about "hating" one's family, it's a provocative way of stating that being his disciple must come first-even before family. But as explained in the sermon, "hate" in this context was more about "loving less" or placing a greater priority on Jesus than on the closest human relationships. The concept of bearing one's cross would resonate deeply with people in the Roman Empire, where crucifixion was a common form of punishment for criminals. This imagery implied a willingness to endure suffering and possibly even face death for the sake of following Jesus.

Biblical Timeline

Gen. 29:31 Ten Commandments Exodus 20

Creation

What's Going On?

In this passage, Jesus uses two mini-parables to illustrate his point about counting the cost of discipleship. First, he compares being a disciple to someone building a tower. Before starting construction, a wise builder calculates the cost to ensure they can finish the project. If they don't, they risk public embarrassment when the unfinished tower stands as a testament to their poor planning. Here, Jesus encourages potential followers to consider carefully what it means to truly follow him-not just start but fully commit to the journey. Next, Jesus talks about a king going to war. A wise king will assess whether his army can win against a larger opposing force. If not, he will seek peace to avoid a devastating defeat. By using these examples, Jesus emphasizes careful consideration and preparedness for the challenges and sacrifices that

Throughout the Gospels, the term "disciple" is used repeatedly, and in this section, Jesus focuses on deepening the understanding of what that term really means. He contrasts "the crowd," which represents those who are superficially interested, with true disciples who are ready for the lifelong commitment that following him demands.



Today's highlighted passage and other related passages

Notes:

come with discipleship.

Sermon Notes

Luke 14:24-33 CSB For I tell you, not one of those people who were invited will enjoy my banquet.' " Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters #— #yes, and even his own life #— #he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. "For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.' "Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

When a disciple lives out their Godgiven calling, they naturally become a force for good . . . where they live, work, and play. This type of person is . . . looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.

