

ONE

STORY

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 44

The Cost of Discipleship

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Pray for each of your group members by name
- Look over the questions on the right and choose the ones that are most appropriate for your small group. If you're really feeling motivated, you might even think of a few on your own.
- Think through how you might prompt your group a little if they have difficulty getting started in discussion.
- Take a look at the accountability question below. Lead members to gather one on one or in same sex clusters to discuss it over coffee this week.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The cost of being a disciple of Christ is high.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTION

Is there anything in your life that you are making more important than following Christ's?

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Pick up a copy of the Unstoppable Journal. The reading follows the Radical Reading Plan.

CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one or both of the following questions to begin your time together as a group.

1. **What is the one thing you begged your parents for when you were a kid (ex. Clothes, Toys ect.) Why did you want it so much? Did you get it?**
2. **If you were on a game show and had already won \$25,000, would you try to win \$50,000 if you knew you could lose it all?**

EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we're going to take a look at the cost of discipleship." Then guide your group through these questions.

3. **If you were in worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Read Luke 14:25-26. Jesus is using hyperbole to describe the contrast of our love for Jesus compared to everything and everyone else in our lives. What/who is competing with Jesus to be the centerpiece of your affection?**
5. **Read Luke 14:27. In what contexts have you heard the phrase "It's just my cross to bear" used? How do you think those uses differ from what Jesus was actually communicating? If you went to church as a child, how do Jesus' words in this verse differ from what you were taught it meant to be a Christian?**
6. **Read Luke 14:28-32. Twice in these passages Jesus emphasizes the need to "sit down and count the costs" and "sit down first and deliberate". What was Jesus trying to tell the crowd? Why was this important for them to know?**
7. **In the verses we've looked at tonight, Jesus was communicating that following Him and helping others do the same is not easy. Give examples of times in your own life when you've found this to be true?**
8. **Have you ever felt God leading you to follow him by doing something you were scared or reluctant to do? What did you do? What was the result?**

TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Wrap up your time by recalling a few things from your meeting that stood out to you. Then, ask the following question and pray together.

9. **Today we have talked about how Christ calls us to put our relationship with him above all other things in our life, regardless of the cost. What change can you make this week to live that out as an example for others?**

This Week's Study Notes:

What's This Passage All About?

Jesus has one central theme. If we are to be His disciples, we must put Him first in our lives above all else. In Luke 14:25-26 Jesus use of the word "Hate" which is meant to emphasis the priority of our relationship with Jesus above all other relationships in our lives. A disciple is meant to be a learner and Jesus is the ultimate teacher in life. Complete loyalty is crucial given the persecution we may face in life. If anything else is more important in our lives than Jesus, when choices come we may choose those things before we choose to follow Jesus.

In Luke 14:27 Jesus says disciples must take up their cross and follow him. This is a literal warning to the crowd that we must count the costs of following Jesus and for the crowd that could mean even giving their lives. In the next two illustrations, Jesus also emphasizes the need to sit down and count the costs. He was clearly warning the crowd that following him would have consequences and would not be easy. We consider the options of our choices every day. The choice to follow Jesus should be no different. We know choosing to do so is difficult but we must also consider the consequences of choosing not to follow Him.

In Luke 14:34-35 Jesus gives an illustration of how salt is only useful if it is still salty. In Jesus time salt had many uses or roles. It was used to as a catalyst for fire, seasoning, preservative and fertilizer. However, salt was only useful for any of the purposes if it was still salty. In the same way disciples become useless to God if they lose their desire to follow Jesus.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Whom does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

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