

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 5: Counting the Cost
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: Have you ever planned a project down to the last detail- then it took longer than you thought it would take to complete it? What feelings were created? Talk about the word, “sacrifice.” What does it mean? What does it look like? List some examples of sacrificial action.

Digging In: Luke 14:25-35

1. In the previous verses, Jesus shared a parable about the “inclusive” nature of God’s kingdom. How does this text provide “balance” to the previous text?
2. At this time, Jesus’ ministry is very popular as evidenced by the large crowds. Why would Jesus choose to say these things to large crowds?
3. Verses 26 and 27 may seem like uncharacteristic language from Jesus. Understanding that He often used hyperbole, how do we understand these verses? How do you think the original hearers understood them? What would it mean to “carry your cross?” How would you define true discipleship in light of these verses?
4. How do the pictures of vs. 28-33 enhance your understanding of Jesus’ teaching? What is Jesus saying?
5. Salt had various uses in the ancient world including flavoring, preserving, and weed-killing. The sludge left after removing the sodium chloride was useless and typically discarded. Why include vs. 34-35 in a discussion on discipleship? How do these verses connect with the previous ones?

Reflection:

1. How is it that being part of God’s kingdom is free, but it costs everything?
2. What are some of the costs that we experience today in following Jesus? How do we often fail to count the cost in our walk with Christ? How does that impact our long-term commitment? Why is it important to count the cost?
3. Does it say anywhere in this text that we should be “willing” to count the cost? What is the difference between being “willing” and actually living out the call of discipleship?
4. What would Jesus say to “large crowds” today? Do we encourage people to consider the cost of discipleship?

Prayer: God, help us to hear the call to discipleship and act on it. Show us areas in our lives where we need to change. May our total dependence and allegiance belong to You.