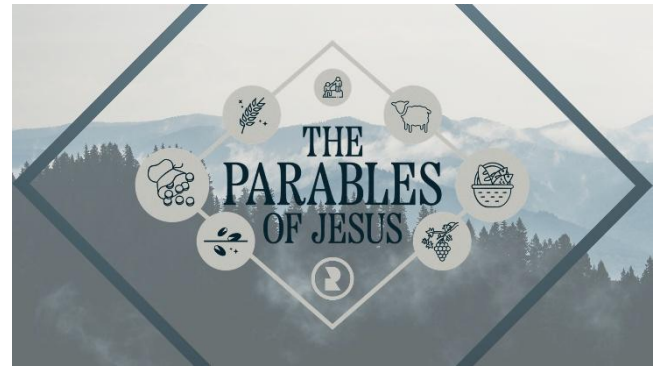


## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Luke 14:25–35

The Cost of Discipleship

About this series:



This series explores the bold and sometimes challenging teachings of Jesus found in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus doesn't hide the cost of discipleship—He's honest, clear, and compelling. Through parables, direct teaching, and real conversations, He invites us into a way of life that is radically different from the world's values. This journey with Jesus requires full surrender and total allegiance. As His followers, we're not just called to believe in Him, but to follow Him in a way that transforms everything.

Goals of this week's discussion/ study:

In Luke 14:25–35, Jesus gives a sobering invitation to those who would follow Him. He challenges the crowd to consider what it will truly cost to be His disciple—letting go of everything, carrying their cross, and putting Him above all other attachments. This is a moment of "full disclosure," where Jesus doesn't hide the difficulties of discipleship but instead invites honest reflection. Are we ready to follow Jesus when it's hard, inconvenient, or costly?

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower

- Keep in Step: Discipleship means surrendering control and comfort in order to follow Jesus.
- Live Free: Letting go of what we cling to allows us to live open-handedly for the Kingdom.

Suggested Starter Questions

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- What's the most challenging commitment you've ever made? What helped you stick with it?
- Why do you think Jesus was so upfront about the cost of following Him?
- Have you ever tried to follow Jesus without counting the cost first? What happened?

## Discussion

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Read Luke 14:25-27

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother... he cannot be my disciple."

- What do you think Jesus means by "hate" in this passage? Is He promoting hostility or something else?
  - Why is Jesus emphasizing such strong language about prioritizing Him over family?
  - What does carrying your cross look like in real life today?
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Read Luke 14:28-30

"Which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost..."

- Why does Jesus use the example of building a tower?
  - What might the "unfinished tower" symbolize in a person's faith journey?
  - Have you ever started something for Jesus without following through? What got in the way?
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Read Luke 14:31-33

"Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple."

- What's the difference between planning for a battle and planning to follow Jesus?
  - What are some things people today might need to "renounce" to fully follow Christ?
  - How does surrendering everything bring freedom rather than fear?
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Read Luke 14:34-35

"Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste..."

- What does Jesus mean when He compares disciples to salt?
- How can a believer lose their "saltiness"?
- What helps keep your faith vibrant and impactful?

### Applying the Text

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1. What does this passage teach us about true discipleship?
  - Key Takeaway: Discipleship is not a casual add-on to life—it's a total surrender. Jesus wants followers who are fully aware and fully committed.
2. How do these verses challenge our personal priorities?
  - Key Takeaway: If Jesus is truly Lord, then nothing and no one can take His place. Our choices, time, and loyalty must reflect that.
3. What does it mean to count the cost in today's world?
  - Key Takeaway: We must examine what we're holding onto that competes with Jesus' call—comfort, approval, possessions, or control—and be willing to let it go.

### Practical Application

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- What is one area of your life where God may be calling you to "count the cost" and go deeper?
- What distractions or attachments might be dulling your spiritual saltiness?
- How can you encourage someone else who's struggling with the cost of following Jesus?

### Pray

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- Pray for courage to fully surrender to Jesus, even when it's hard or costly.
- Ask God to reveal any areas of your life where your commitment is divided.
- Pray that your life would be like flavorful salt—preserving, impactful, and distinct in the world around you.