

Unit 23, Session 2 – The Cost of Following Jesus

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14

STORY POINT:

Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it.

KEY PASSAGE

John 14:25-26 – *“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus said the Son of Man has no place to what? (*lay His head, Matt. 8:20*)
- What did Jesus say a person must take up to follow Him? (*his cross, Matt. 16:24*)
- What did Jesus say about a king going to war? (*He must consider whether his army can win, Luke 14:31*)
- Why do you think we must be willing to give up our family and even our life to follow Jesus? *Guide kids to see that Jesus is the most important. If we truly love our families, we will want to put Jesus first so that we can help them see that He is best for them. If we love anything, even families or other good things, more than we love Jesus, those things have become idols.*
- What are some ways you might suffer for Jesus' sake? *Discuss what can happen if kids stand up for what's right against friends or other kids at school. Discuss missionaries who move away from home. Talk about places where Christians are not allowed to worship God and might be arrested or killed for their faith.*
- What do we gain by following Jesus? *Help kids think about the rewards we have through Jesus, both in this life and the next. Remind them that Jesus gives us peace, love, joy, and wisdom. Help them see that no matter what hard situations we face now, someday we will rule with Jesus when He returns.*
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be His disciple? *Explain to kids that Jesus later told His disciples that because the world had persecuted Him, they would be persecuted. Believers should expect to suffer in a fallen world. We can endure suffering, fixing our eyes on Jesus and looking forward to eternity with Him. (Option: read John 15:18-20.)*
- Why is it important to understand the cost of following Jesus? *Help kids recognize that following Jesus without understanding the cost may make it difficult to persevere in trials. Emphasize that though Jesus does not offer us an easy life, He offers us Himself. He is better than anything the world offers. (Option: read 1 Pet. 4:12-13.)*
- How can we encourage others who aren't sure if following Jesus is worth it? *Prompt kids to consider the importance of praying for others. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to follow Jesus. Kids can also point others to Jesus, remembering that suffering is temporary and one day Jesus will make all things right. (Option: read Heb. 12:1-3.)*

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

John 14:25-26 – “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Write out each phrase on 2 different index cards in order to create a Memory Game. Flip all the cards over and play Memory and find all the matches. Then work to put the cards in order.

Our key passage comes from the Gospel of John. Jesus spoke these words to His disciples before He went to the cross. He wanted them to know that even if they struggled to remember His teachings, the Holy Spirit would help them remember. The same is true for us. When we have faith in Jesus’ perfect life, death, and resurrection, the Holy Spirit lives with us to help us love and obey God.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- **Guess the Price:** Gather various grocery store items and write a list of their prices. Have your kids guess the correct price for each item. Reveal to them the correct prices once they have finished guessing.

When mom and dad go to the grocery store, it is important to count the cost of the items we want to take home. Today we learned that following Jesus is worth any cost.

- **Cross Reminder:** Draw or use craft materials to create and decorate a cross. You can simply draw and color a cross, use pipe cleaners, construction paper, toilet paper/paper towel tubes, craft/popsicle sticks, etc. Place your cross somewhere you will frequently see it.

Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.” Jesus taught that following Him is not easy. It requires commitment and sacrifice.

When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. True life is found in Jesus, who gave up His life to rescue us from sin and death. He is worth it.