

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 23-28, 2021

“THE COST OF FOLLOWING CHRIST”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share an experience when you spent time thinking intently about buying something that costs a lot. Did you end up buying it or not? What was the reason for your decision?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Luke 14:27, John 8:31-32, John 13:34-35. How do these passages describe a disciple of Jesus? In your own words, how do you picture a disciple or a follower of Jesus Christ in our generation? What are examples of some contemporary “hindrances” or “costs” that make it difficult for people to follow Christ?
2. Read Matthew 8:18-22. Here is a picture of two “disciples;” one who is enthusiastic but hasn’t counted the cost and another who is reluctant and has other priorities aside from Jesus. Which of the two can you identify yourself with and what is Jesus telling you about following him?
3. Read Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:36. In the sermon we realized that everyone from the crowd survived - those who didn’t follow and those who did. But those who followed him experienced a great miracle. What does this situation tell you about God allowing us to go through difficulties and trials even if we are already Christians? What is the purpose of the “storm” and how can this build up our trust and faith in Jesus?
4. How we respond during the storms in our lives is crucial. We can grow in our faith or we can lose heart. Can you share an experience where your faith was strengthened because you went through a difficulty? Was there a time when you gave up? In what ways can we guard our hearts against the lies of the enemy for us to respond well and honor God in our storms?
5. Read Luke 8:26-39. In the sermon, we saw Jesus’ responses to the request of the demons, of the people of the land, and of the healed demon-possessed man who wanted to follow him. To the others Jesus gave permission but to the healed man, he gave direction. How has your prayer life been lately? Is it filled with prayers for

permission or direction? How can we apply the learnings from this message to our spiritual walk?

6. In the sermon, we were given three marks of a follower of Christ: priority, trust and pursuit of God’s will. What realizations did you have with regards to Jesus’ call to follow him? In which of the three aspects do you struggle the most? What steps can you take to grow as a disciple?

7. NEXT STEPS

Putting Christ first is not about where we go but who we’re with.

Placing our trust in Christ is not about escaping the storm but experiencing who he is.

Pursuing his will is not about doing great things but choosing what is best instead of what is good.

- I will count the cost of following Jesus.
- God is sovereign in the storms of my life. He is in control and I will trust him fully.
- I will prioritize spending time with Jesus everyday by reading my bible, devoting myself to prayer, and declaring his Lordship not only in my lips but most importantly in my choices and daily actions.
- There is a purpose for my salvation and I will actively share my faith to my circle of influence.

Don’t forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God’s Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God’s intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart fully given to follow Jesus. Pray for quietness of spirit even as we encounter various trials in life knowing that our God remains fully in control.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

August 23. Matthew 9:1-17
August 24. Matthew 9:18-38
August 25. Matthew 10.
August 26. Matthew 11:1-19.
August 27. Matthew 11:20-30
August 28. Matthew 12.
August 29. Matthew 13:1-43.