

## LIFE Group Sermon Discussion Guide

The Cost of Discipleship  
Senior Pastor Brad Wetherell  
Matthew 16:21-28  
March 1, 2026



THE ORCHARD

### Sermon Outline

- I. What You Lose When You Follow Jesus
- II. What You Gain When You Follow Jesus

### Suggested Memory Verse:

Matthew 16:24-25

*“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’”*

### Review of Last Week:

Have the group share how they applied last week’s sermon.

- “You said you would \_\_\_\_\_. How did that go?”
- “What did God do in your life this week through your obedience?”

### RECAP Questions – Read, Engage, Connect, Apply, & Pray

#### 1. Read the Word

Main Question: What is the passage from this week’s sermon?

#### 2. Engage the Word

- Main Question: What was something in this passage that stood out to you?
  
- Additional Follow-up Questions:
  - How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the passage?
  - What other Bible verses came to your mind that speak into this passage?
  - What does this passage reveal about God? About mankind?
  - In your own words, how would you summarize the passage?
  - Is there anything you didn't understand?
- Main Question: How does this passage point to or reflect Jesus Christ?
  
- Additional Follow-up Questions:
  - Does Jesus fulfill something in this passage?
  - Is there a problem in this passage that Jesus has overcome?
  - How does Jesus bring future hope to this passage?

### **3. Connect the Word:**

- Main Question: How does this passage connect to our lives right now?
  
- Additional Follow-up Questions:
  - Is there something in this passage that is similar or different from what we are experiencing?
  - How does this passage connect to your personal life circumstances?
  - How does this passage connect to our life as the church?
  - How does this passage connect to our lost world?

### **4. Apply the Word:**

- Main Question: Is there a promise for you to believe, a command to obey, a warning to heed, an example to follow, or a sin to confess?
  
- Additional Follow-up Questions:
  - In one or two sentences, what is the next practical step(s) you will take going forward this week?
  - What truth about God and His gospel will motivate your application this week?
  - How can we as a LIFE Group help you, root for you, or hold you accountable?

### **5. Pray the Word:**

- Main Question: Ask God for the power to comprehend and obey all that He has revealed in His preached Word this week.
  
- Additional Follow-up Questions:
  - What did we learn in this passage that makes us want to praise and thank God?
  - What sin in this passage do we need to confess to God?
  - What help or hope in this passage do we need to ask of God?

### **Resolve**

After you close in prayer, take some time to solidify your group's plan for application of the Word and prayer for each other throughout the week ahead.