

The Cost of Discipleship

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Verse 27 Luke 14:25-33



Adults ▪

1. Today's Gospel reading is a trying one to say the least. Jesus' words about hating our families seems harsh considering we are also called to love, honor, and protect them. What does Jesus actually mean when He calls us to hate our families?
2. Jesus' type of love is a transcendent all-encompassing love that has no boundaries, no division, no preferences. How does this change your thoughts on the reading today?
3. Jesus is very open about discipleship and that it comes with a cost. He also states that not everyone will be willing and able to be a disciple. Where are you in your journey of discipleship today? What are the things you still cling to instead of Jesus?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Using our own interpretation of God's love to understand his teaching

Teens ▪

1. When Jesus says you must "hate" things it can feel a little confusing. He's not referencing actual hatred but is saying in order to be a disciple you have to love Jesus more than anything else. Is there anything in your life that you put above your love for God?
2. What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Whoever does not carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple"? What does "carrying your cross" look like in your daily life?
3. Jesus talks about counting the cost before following Him. Why do you think that's important? What kinds of "costs" might following Jesus mean for you? Are there things or people that might be "weighing you down" or making it hard to fully follow Jesus?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Fully depending on Jesus and His plan can feel scary or like we're losing control.

Children ▪

1. Jesus said that being His disciple requires sacrifice. What does that mean to you? What might be something you should give up to become a better disciple? Is there anything in your life that you love more than Jesus? If so, how can you intentionally put Jesus first in your life?
2. When you have a difficult choice to make do you stop and ask yourself, "What Would Jesus Do?"
3. Why is discipleship so costly? What does it mean to carry your cross?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not wanting to make the commitment or sacrifices it takes to follow Jesus.

