

COUNTING THE COST

• All In Group Discussion Guide •
Fourth Week Of Lent

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:25-35

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introductions:

- Share about yourself: what is your favorite sports team?
- How long have you been a loyal fan?

Scripture Reflection:

- What do we learn about God (traits, personality, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Sermon Reflection:

- Pastor Lara talks about Jesus being good but not a tame lion. How does this image of a wild even confrontational God strike you?
- Every church struggles with the tension between wanting to make discipleship easy in order to grow and wanting to follow Jesus' harder less popular teachings. How do you navigate that tension?
- Pastor Lara listed many allegiances we have. Which was most challenging?
- Which loyalty is most difficult for you to surrender to Christ? What might Christ be calling you to consider letting go of right now?
- Jesus ultimately pays the cost of discipleship. How much does your faith feel like you doing for Christ vs. Christ doing in you?

Closing Question & Application:

- Given our discussion, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

Prayer Partners:

- Spend a few minutes sharing prayer requests with the group.
- This week, do a "phone call" prayer. Have one leader "dial" (open in prayer), then leave time for others in the group to pray. Pray for one another, the world, the church, anything! When it feels like the right time, have the other leader "hang up" (conclude the prayer).

Join us Wednesday mornings in Lent at 7:00 am for Lenten Prayer Breakfast!