

# Luke 14:25-33

## All in for Jesus!

**Scripture:** Luke 14:25-33

**Memory Verse:** Luke 14:27 “*And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.*”

**Lesson Focus:** Jesus has been “schooling” us lately! The last couple weeks there has been a focus on the urgency to believe and follow Jesus Christ. This week, our lesson is equally challenging, and maybe even more convicting, as we consider what it means to be, “All in for Jesus!” We will look at the beauty of the gospel message, that Christ has fulfilled His mission and that it is finished completely apart from anything we can and will ever do. But then in light of that great news, how should we respond?

**Activities and Crafts:** Follow Jesus Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Make Your Own Currency

**Starter Activity:** The Price is Right

Consider beginning with a quick version of the timeless, day-time TV game show, *The Price is Right*. You will either need to bring in a few household items that the kids could guess the price of or have a few ideas in mind with their prices in order to play. Or consider printing off pictures of several age-appropriate toys on Amazon that the kids might be familiar with. You will then select several volunteers who will then compete to guess the price of the item. Ham it up and make it fun! Remember if the kid guesses a price above the actual fair market value, the guesser is automatically out. Either have the winner of each round stay on or invite new kids for each round. Afterwards, transition into the lesson with some discussion.

Q: So what did you have to do to win this game? A: You have to know or “count the cost!”

This is something that we all do even without really thinking too much about it. We all consider what something will cost us. For example, when we think about joining a club after school or a team, we consider how much time that will cost us to practice and play. Or how “costly” the punishment will be for eating a piece of birthday cake before dinner is ready (because you know you are not allowed to)! We count the costs of things all of the time.

Q: Well, how much do you think it costs to be a disciple, or a follower, of Jesus? A: As we get into our study of Luke today, Jesus is going to answer that question. Let’s take a look!

## Bible Study:

**Luke 14:25:** First we need to set the scene. The text says there were, “great multitudes that went with Him,” which means lots of people were following Jesus. Many had witnessed His miracles. People had been healed of sickness and disease. But some people, we know from the other gospels, were following Jesus not necessarily because they believed Him, but more so for what they could get from Him. They thought, “this guy is able to give us food (like when He fed the 5000) and we like to eat, so we should follow Him because He can always give us dinner.” Others thought He was going to kick out the Romans and lead Israel to be this great powerful nation that ruled the world. So lots of people were following Him for the wrong reasons.

**Luke 14:26:** But then Jesus says something that sounds shocking!

Q: Does He mean that Christians are to hate their father and mother?

A: NO! Absolutely not, right? That would violate one of the ten commandments, to honor our parents. So that can't be what He means, God can't contradict Himself!

Instead, Jesus is challenging all of these half-hearted “followers”. Remember the crowds were coming to Jesus not because they believed in Him or believed what He said, but primarily because of what they could get from Him. Jesus is saying following Him is going to be costly, maybe even friends and family! He needs to be #1!

**Luke 14:27:** Whoever does not bear their cross and follow Him cannot be His disciple. Wow! That is hard to hear.

Q: What is the cross a symbol of? What happened at the cross?

A: Jesus's crucifixion. It was a painful death. A symbol of trial and suffering, right?

**(Teachers:** We will have a cross in your room that you can have kids “bear”. Use this as an illustration to show that Jesus is saying following Him won't always be easy!) \*

Jesus is clearly telling the crowds that following Him will not always be easy. Sometimes being a Christian, especially in a world that doesn't value the things of God, will be very difficult. You can lose friends for doing the right thing and following Christ. People may call you names or make fun of you. They will try to make you feel as though you're the one missing out, right?

So Jesus continues on...

**Luke 14:28-30:** I bet all of you Lego lovers can understand what Jesus means here!

Q: How many of you guys have ever set out to build the most magnificent Lego village you can possibly think of? Not the kits that you can buy. But with a box of plain old-fashioned Legos? **(Teachers:** To better illustrate this consider inviting up a volunteer to be your Lego “master-builder”. Tell them you need an elaborate Lego village and give them the box of Legos in your toy box to use!) \*

If you don't “count the cost”, you will start to build this wonderful village only to find out you don't have enough pieces to finish and it will be left half built!

**Luke 14:31-32:** Jesus uses another illustration to help us better understand what “counting the cost” means.

Q: Have any of you ever played chess before? What is the object of the game?

A: To capture the other player’s king!

**Teachers:** Consider inviting two boys up to “face-off” with one another as the kings in a chess game. Like in Jesus’s illustration, give one “king” twice as many “pieces” (using other kids in the class) as the other “king”. Then ask the “king” with the smaller army to “count the cost” of going into this battle.

**Luke 14:33:** Jesus is using these different illustrations to show us the cost of being His disciple. And on one hand, it sounds like an awful lot, doesn’t it? And that’s true. Being a disciple of Jesus, as we just saw, will cost you! So that brings us to the key question:

Q: Is it worth it? A: Absolutely! Following Jesus, being His disciple, is the greatest decision you will ever make. It gives purpose and meaning to your life, it brings blessing and joy, freedom from sin, a peace in all circumstance far beyond human understanding. Believing and following Jesus, grants peace between you and God, and not only that, but an eternal inheritance. So your sins are forgiven, Jesus paid the price on the cross, but then He rose from the dead only to share all that He has been given with you, with us, with all Christians. As **1 Corinthians 2:9** says, *“No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”*

It’s absolutely worth it! Eternal life is offered to you as a gift!

Q: What is a gift? A: Something that was given to you, not earned or deserved.

So it’s true on one hand, the cost of discipleship is great. But on the other hand, it’s completely free. We didn’t earn it. We don’t deserve it because we are better people than anyone else or that we just follow all of God’s rules better.

No, that’s impossible. God’s standard is perfection. We all fall short of the glory of God, which is why Christ came. He did what we could not. He lived a perfect life, was obedient even to death. Rose again on the third day. And whoever believes in Him, shall not perish but have eternal life. (**John 3:16**) That’s a gift. The best gift. It’s infinitely wonderful and completely free.

**Key Point:** A month ago we celebrated the birth of Jesus. The greatest gift imaginable, the Son of God, given to us. And this wonderful gift cost us nothing, right? It’s not like when you do some chores and earn a little bit of an allowance. As **Ephesians 2:8-9** says, *“It’s by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is...”*

What? **“The gift of God, not of works.”**

It’s then the gift of God. Yet, Jesus says that our response is to be “all in” on this gift. We are to be “all in for Him”. Not to earn salvation, but BECAUSE we are saved!

And it’s in this weird way that being a disciple of Jesus cost you both nothing and also everything. That living for Him becomes our number one priority. We love Him and serve Him totally. Nothing held back. And while that is hard at times, and it may seem like a sacrifice, we know that it is ultimately worth it! Go and be “all in” for Jesus this week!

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 14:26  
What does Jesus  
actually mean here?

Parent Signature:  
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Parent Challenge:  
What does it mean to  
"bear your cross:"?

Read Luke 14:33  
What is one thing you  
may need to "forsake" to  
better follow Jesus?

