



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 44: Counting the Cost

Scripture

Luke 14:25-35

Memory Verse

Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your mind." Matthew 22:37 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that being a true disciple means loving Jesus more than anyone/ anything else.

Understand that it is wise to count the cost of following Jesus.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Have you ever wanted to take a trip to a far away place? Or maybe you have traveled with your parents. Can you just hop on a plane and go? What about passports, tickets, clothes, maps, hotel reservations, money to spend, etc.? Planning a trip is a lot of work. If you don't think about all those things you need, you could wind up in trouble in a strange place, with no money and no where to go for help. Think about that as you listen to our lesson.

As Jesus continued traveling through Israel, large crowds traveled with Him. He spoke to them and taught them. On this particular occasion, Jesus talked to them about what it really meant to follow Him, to be His disciple. Yes, in a sense some of them were following, but simply walking the same path with someone doesn't make you a disciple any more than swimming in the ocean makes you a dolphin! So, what distinguishes a disciple from the rest of the crowd?

Jesus told them, "You cannot be my disciple, unless you **love me more** than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters." (Luke 14:26 CEV) Jesus should be more important to us than anything or anyone. No one else even compares to Him, why should our affection, or devotion, go to another?

And then Jesus said, "Anyone who doesn't carry his cross and follow me can't be My disciple." (Luke 14:27 NirV) Jesus wasn't talking about actually carrying a wooden cross on your back. "Carrying your cross" can mean more than one thing. It makes us think of difficult times in our lives as we follow Jesus. It also stands for a type of death; Jesus was crucified on a cross. Life doesn't automatically get easier when we decide to follow Jesus, but a true disciple of Jesus is willing to take the difficult along with the good. For some followers, including many of the twelve disciples, that meant giving their lives for Jesus.

Jesus explained with two examples, much like the example of the trip we started our lesson with. Jesus said, "Suppose you want to build a tower. The first thing you do is sit down and figure out if you have enough money to build it. Everyone would laugh if you started the tower and weren't able to finish it because you didn't have enough money."

Jesus continued to the next example, "What do you think a king will do if he wants to attack another king? He will count his troops. If he has less troops than the other king he won't be able to defend himself. It would be better to ask for peace."

Application

Our memory verse says, "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love Him with all your mind.'" (Matthew 22:37 NIRV)

Only God deserves that kind of love and allegiance.

You and I have been bought with a price, Jesus' death on a cross. The life, eternal life, that God offers may be free to you and to me, but the price Jesus paid was costly.

Jesus left heaven and headed for the cross with every step He took. He paid with His life. Is that too much to ask from us as well?

Are you willing to offer your life to God? Will you submit to His authority over you and do whatever He asks you to do? Will you go where He asks you to go?

You may take that stand alone at times, but God has promised to never leave us or forsake us. Will you count the cost and choose to live for the Lord?

When we choose to accept the gift of salvation God offers, there is a cost involved, submitting ourselves to His authority. So Jesus said, "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple." (Luke 14:33 MSG) This is the idea of setting something aside so that it doesn't take over and keep you from being obedient to God.* It's the idea of having your priorities right, God first, others second, then yourself. Jesus was saying that true disciples put Him first. It means surrendering yourself completely, saying "no" to yourself so that you can say "yes" to whatever it is God wants you to do.

The choice is yours, but think before you begin. Are you willing to say "no" to yourself so that you can say "yes" to God? It may feel like you are giving up a lot, and you are, really. You are surrendering everything to God. Who could you trust more, though? No one! Are you ready to go where God says go and do and say what God says to do? Let's talk about how you can begin the adventure.

It may be that you have already counted the cost and begun a relationship with the Lord of the Universe. I encourage you to do what you do for God and Him only. People will disappoint you, but God is faithful. Maybe you are at a place where you need to be reminded "to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye." Are your priorities right? Don't let anything keep you from being obedient to God. He is still faithful!

*Zodhiates, Spiros. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN. 1992. p 657.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Heals Ten Men



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring building blocks. Build a tower while you are sharing the lesson.

As Jesus continued traveling through Israel, large crowds traveled with Him. He talked to them and taught them. This time, Jesus talked to them about what it really means to follow Him, to be His disciple.

Jesus told them, “You cannot be my disciple, unless you **love me more** than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters.” (Luke 14:26 CEV) Jesus should be more important to us than anything or anyone. No one else even compares to Him, why should we love anyone else more than we love Him?

And then Jesus said, “Anyone who doesn’t carry his cross and follow me can’t be My disciple.” (Luke 14:27 NIV) Jesus wasn’t talking about actually carrying a wooden cross on your back. Jesus was talking about trusting Him when things are good and trusting Him when things are bad,

Jesus gave an example. Jesus said, “Suppose you want to build a tower.” (Maybe a tower like the one I’m building here.) “The first thing you do is sit down and figure out if you have enough money to build it. Everyone would laugh if you started the tower and weren’t able to finish it because you didn’t have enough money.”

When we choose to follow Jesus we need to be ready to give up what we want to do what God wants. Did you know the Bible says that we should not tell a lie? The next time you want to tell a lie, think. Would it make Jesus happy if I tell a lie? NO! Then you need to decide, “I want to tell this lie, but God says not to. I will tell the truth.”

And did you know that the Bible says that we shouldn’t steal, or take things that aren’t ours? It does! So, if you want to make God happy, what should you do the next time you want to take something that isn’t yours? (Allow the children to answer.)

Let’s practice this week saying “no” to ourselves and saying “yes” to God!



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make memory verse posters. Use small poster board or large sheets of colored construction paper. In large letters, print “LOVE HIM” on the top half of the poster. Write the full verse, including the reference, across the bottom half of the paper. Decorate with borders and glitter.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring pretzels for a snack today. Count them as you give them to your students. Talk about how we are to count the cost when we follow Jesus.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Make an acrostic of the word “disciple.” Use each letter of the word to write a one word description.
- Sing “I Will,” “Trust and Obey,” “Indescribable,” “The Mission,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Dig Deeper: Read the memory verse, Luke 14:26, in several translations. Discuss the following quote referring to our memory verse. “Here Jesus asserts His deity. Every member of man’s family is a human being, and the love shown to humans compared to the love shown to Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, must be so different that the former seems like hatred.”*

*Zodhiates, Spiros. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN. 1992. p 987.

Jesus replied,
“Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul.

LOVE HIM

with all your mind.”

Matthew 22:37

Trace the letters.

FOLLOW

FOLLOW

**D
I
S
C
I
P
L
I
N
E**

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

K Y B D R W A S U L W R A L M
C H E U N J L D T K I O N K Y
E E L O B E L I A V T O Y A T
U W U Y O S Y S H A H D O N E
D N I M R U O Y L L A H T I W
Y E Y T E S U N A E L H Y H V
E V H N N R R A R F L T O T E
V E T E S E H W S E Y T U I I
A I I V T P E E M G O A E M L
G L W I H L A H Y P U D Y I E
R T T G E I R T V S R N T H B
O B A L D E T A O W S A L E M
N I E M O D L L I W O T B V T
O G Y O O E L W Y O U R G O D
D R O L E H T E V O L I A L F

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Jesus replied,
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
Love Him with all your mind.”
Matthew 22:37



Word Search

K	Y	B	D	R	W	A	S	U	L	W	R	A	L	M
C	H	E	U	N	J	L	D	T	K	I	O	N	K	Y
E	E	L	O	B	E	L	I	A	V	T	O	Y	A	T
U	W	U	Y	O	S	Y	S	H	A	H	D	O	N	E
D	N	I	M	R	U	O	Y	L	L	A	H	T	I	W
Y	E	Y	T	E	S	U	N	A	E	L	H	Y	H	V
E	V	H	N	N	R	R	A	R	F	L	T	O	T	E
V	E	T	E	S	E	H	W	S	E	Y	T	U	I	I
A	I	I	V	T	P	E	E	M	G	O	A	E	M	L
G	L	W	I	H	L	A	H	Y	P	U	D	Y	I	E
R	T	T	G	E	I	R	T	V	S	R	N	T	H	B
O	B	A	L	D	E	T	A	O	W	S	A	L	E	M
N	I	E	M	O	D	L	L	I	W	O	T	B	V	T
O	G	Y	O	O	E	L	W	Y	O	U	R	G	O	D
D	R	O	L	E	H	T	E	V	O	L	I	A	L	F

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Jesus replied,
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
Love Him with all your mind.””
 Matthew 22:37



Preschool Word Search

P R Y E S T O G O D I N
E I M A R B L I N D S D
H A P E M J E S O N W S
B M P F O L L O W R O P
J A W O M H T A S Y L S
E J T E I R H R O E S S
D I S C I P L E L Y R E
S A M A R I J E S U S D
R I N O T O M E I O N E
D S E R E G T E R R B N
L C A E L R T O A Y S J
L L O V E H I M M O R E

JESUS

DISCIPLE

LOVE HIM MORE

NO TO ME

YES TO GOD

FOLLOW



Preschool Word Search

P R **Y E S T O G O D** I N
E I M A R B L I N D S D
H A P E M J E S O N W S
B M P **F O L L O W** R O P
J A W O M H T A S Y L S
E J T E I R H R O E S S
D I S C I P L E L Y R E
S A M A R I **J E S U S** D
R I **N O T O M E** I O N E
D S E R E G T E R R B N
L C A E L R T O A Y S J
L **L O V E H I M M O R E**

JESUS

DISCIPLE

LOVE HIM MORE

NO TO ME

YES TO GOD

FOLLOW