

Study Guide #2 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of September 17, 2017

Title of Scripture Passage: The Cost of Discipleship

Lesson Overview: As we think about being disciples and making disciples, we must count the cost. In regards to this cost, Jesus provided some strong words and a hard teaching that must not be ignored. Bottom line, one must count the cost of being a follower of Christ and that cost involves surrendering one's right to rule his/her own life, a willingness to suffer for Christ, and a willingness to obediently follow Christ's teaching. Remember, if we make this choice, it is going to be "very hard," but "very good" and "very worth it!"

Luke 9:18-26 (NIV)

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" ¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life." ²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

*Start the lesson by listening to one of your K-group members verbalize the scripture passage in a conversational style (keep bible's closed and encourage the story teller not to use notes but to simply share from the heart)

* Once the story has been told, have everyone open their bibles to Luke 9:18-26.

Questions

- Ask, "Before we dig into this study, we need to clarify the facts of the story. Was there anything added or deleted that we need to note?" (Remember to affirm the story teller, but also be sure to clarify what the scripture actually says)
- What part of this story resonated with you the most and why?
- When surveying the preceding context for this passage, what are some important observations? (Note: Many scholars see this passage as a turning point in the Gospels. It is the time when Jesus begins to focus on his mission to die on the cross. Jesus sending out the 12 at the beginning of the chapter seems to signal a shift from Jesus doing ministry and the disciples observing to the disciples doing ministry and Jesus observing. In other words, as Jesus begins to move towards the cross, he is preparing his disciples to continue his work and ministry.)

- How does Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah relate to the rest of the passage? (Jesus is the Messiah thus the Messiah has come to die for the sins of fallen humanity and to redeem us. In the same way, all of Jesus followers must be willing to follow in his footsteps.)
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about ourselves? (Note: This is kind of a scary passage. Do you think most people who call themselves Christians truly understand and commit to Luke 9:23? How about us?)
- What does this passage teach us about the Gospel message? (Note: we need to be careful when we share the Gospel with others that we are not concealing the cost of discipleship)
- Are there some related bible passages that we should consider as we ponder the ramifications of this lesson? (If so, take a few minutes to look these up and read and reflect upon them; one passage you might consider is John 6:60-66)
- What actions do you plan to take as a result of this study and discussion?

Close with prayer. Pray specifically that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.