



## Unit 23, Session 2

# The Cost of Following Jesus

Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14

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**Story Point:** Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it.

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Large crowds traveled with Jesus. One man said, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” Jesus told the man, “Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

Another disciple said, “Lord, I will follow You, but first let me go and bury my father.”

Jesus replied, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Jesus told the people that following Him wouldn’t be easy.

“Anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be my disciple,” Jesus said.

He told them a story: “If you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and figure out what it would take to complete the tower. Otherwise, you would build the foundation and be unable to finish. People

would laugh at you.”

Jesus wanted the people to consider the cost. “If you are not willing to give up everything you have, you cannot follow Me,” Jesus said.

Jesus said, “Whoever gives up his life for me will find true life. What good is it to have everything you want in the world if you give up life with God forever?”

*Christ Connection: Jesus taught that following Him is not easy. It requires commitment and sacrifice. When we trust in Jesus, we give Him complete control of our lives. True life is found in Jesus, who gave up His life to rescue us from sin and death. He is worth it.*



## EXPERIENCE the Story

*The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.*

- For each scenario, describe what it would take to accomplish the task.

Earn a good grade on the math test. \_\_\_\_\_

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Grow the largest pumpkin in the state. \_\_\_\_\_

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Follow Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

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- What does this story teach us about God?

- What did Jesus say will happen if we give Him complete control of our lives?

### CHRIST CONNECTION

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## APPLY the Story

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be His disciple?
  
- Why is it important to understand the cost of following Jesus?
  
- How can we encourage others who aren't sure if following Jesus is worth it?

### CHRIST CONNECTION

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## APPLY the Story

- Find John 14:25–26 in your Bible and write the words below.

- Write a prayer to God, asking Him to draw you to Himself and give you strength to faithfully follow Jesus—no matter the cost. Pray that you would always remember that following Jesus is worth it.

### READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> John 15:18–20   | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:42     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 4:12–13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 6:40     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:1–3  | <input type="checkbox"/> John 13:34–35 |