

Life Group Lesson

“The Cost of Discipleship”

May 1, 2011



QUOTE

“A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.” - Martin Luther

READ

Deuteronomy 1:6-8; 10-11

ASK

Discipleship costs us. It requires sacrifice. Just like the Lord told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 1 to get out of their rut, break camp, and advance, we too must do the same.

1. Which would best describe your spiritual life? Rote, Rut, Rot, or Revival
2. What are you doing for the Lord now that seems routine and common that used to be exciting and adventurous?
3. In what ways are you in a rut spiritually?
4. Are there areas of your life that are rotting away because of your spiritual life being rote or in a rut?
5. If you are in a revival in your spiritual journey, explain to the group how you got there.

READ

Psalm 139:23-25

ASK

1. How are you letting the Lord search you?
2. Do you really ask the Lord to know your heart?
3. Would you want others to know your heart?
4. In what ways are you anxious (not trusting the Lord)?
5. Are there any offensive ways in you? (This is the Lord searching, not you)

READ

Luke 9:57-62

ASK

Jesus was telling the man who said he would follow him anywhere about the discomfort of being a disciple.

1. When was the last time that your comfort level was lowered or disrupted for the Lord?
2. What are you willing to give up to follow Christ?

3. What are you reluctant to give up to follow Christ?
4. How do you relate James 4:4 with Luke 9:62? In other words, can you serve God's Kingdom and your own at the same time?
5. The issues in all three of these encounters in Luke 9 was not one's fitness for service once in the kingdom. It really had to do with how you initially entered the kingdom of God. Salvation is for those who have come to complete self-denial and total abandonment to Christ.

READ

Luke 14:18-20; 25-35; Matthew 10:35-38

ASK

1. How do you reprioritize your human relationships in reference to serving the Kingdom? What does this look like?
2. Is Jesus saying human relationships are not important?
3. We are not to abandon our relationships with others but bring them in under the principles and purpose of the Kingdom. How do you do this with your relationship with your spouse? What about your children? What about your friendships? Other family?

READ

Luke 9:23

ASK

1. Are you willing to endure suffering for the Lord?
2. In what ways are you suffering for the Lord?
3. In what ways does discipleship require self-denial?
4. How are we to "take up our cross and follow Him"?

LIFE APPLICATION

1. Search Scripture this week and find more examples of the cost of being a disciple. Share what you find with someone else in your group.
2. What is a specific way that you can sacrifice/suffer for the Lord this week? In other words, in what way can you serve someone else this week that will require you to get out of your comfort zone and cause you to sacrifice something (money, time, energy, etc.)? Do that and either share it with someone in your group or carry them along with you and do it together.