


1 **What are some of the words and concepts that people normally associate with what it means to follow Jesus?** Consider the crowds of Luke 14:25 . Where do you think those ideas about discipleship come from?

 Read Luke 14:26-27. Think of how Jesus is defining discipleship in contrast to our natural assumptions? Why do you think He uses such strong warnings in this text? See also Luke 9:23-26.

 How might these kinds of warnings be an appropriate way to discuss discipleship with an unbeliever?


2 **Jesus says that if we are His disciples, our family relationships might look like hate when an unbeliever observes the priority that Jesus takes in our lives.** How have you have experienced this kind of alienation from family? Share with one another some of the struggles that you face here.

 How is Mark 10:21-31 an encouragement in this kind of total commitment to Christ?


 On the other hand, in what ways might someone be tempted to idolize their family? How do you see that play out in your life?


3 **According to this text, how should a disciple of Jesus view his own life?** In what ways does your life reflect that kind of denial of self and in what ways are you missing the mark (cf. Luke 9:23)?


 What does “a lifestyle of sacrifice in the name of Jesus” look like? What are some of the key characteristics of this lifestyle?

 Make a list of ways that you are selfish in your normal, everyday life. How many can you list? See if you can list 80 ways that you are self-focused rather than others focused.

4 **What can we learn about possessions from Jesus’ words in this passage and how do the values of this text run counterculture to the world around us?**

 What would it look like if the values of this text affected how you used your possessions?

 What in your life right now, if you gave it up, would allow you to be better equipped to love people and point them to Christ?

 How can you support someone else in the group as he or she examines their own priorities this week? How might doing so help you love Jesus more deeply as well?

#### **Prayer Points**

- Pray that the Lord will open the eyes of unbelievers to hear and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ as they count the cost of discipleship.
- Ask the Lord to open your heart to the truth of what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus.
- Pray that God will reveal anything in your life that you’re holding onto that has taken priority over your discipleship.
- Repent and ask the Lord to forgive you for what you’ve made priority over Christ.
- Thank the Lord for His forgiveness.
- Praise the Lord for His kindness in showing you that denying yourself and following Him brings you life.