

“SERVICE Group” Interactive Discussion Guide

This Week’s Core Practice: Single-mindedness—*I focus on God and His priorities for my life.*

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

SERVICE Focus: Spiritual Formation—*We will assess regularly our growth as apprentices of Jesus Christ and encourage each other to set and achieve personal growth goals.*

Option 1— The Cost of Being a Disciple - [Luke 14:25-35](#)

(Plan 30 minutes for your “study time” by focusing on the * questions and filling out your discussion with the other questions. Be sure to leave time for sharing personal requests and praying for one another.)

Open It

1. *How have you counted the costs recently before tackling a project at home or at work?
2. How much do people take into account the potential reaction of others when planning something?
3. In what way can a project fail before it starts?

Explore It

4. Who was traveling with Jesus? ([14:25](#))
5. What natural affections did Jesus denounce in favor of following Him? ([14:26](#))
6. What does it take to be Jesus’ disciple? ([14:27](#))
7. What should a person consider before building a tower? ([14:28](#))
8. *What consequences result from not counting the cost before building? ([14:29-30](#))
9. *How did a king determine his odds in a war? ([14:31](#))
10. What would be the logical step if a king discovered his manpower was insufficient? ([14:32](#))
11. When would a king send a delegation to another king? ([14:32](#))
12. *How did Jesus use the examples of building a tower and preparing for war? ([14:33](#))
13. What can be done with salt that has lost its saltiness? ([14:34-35](#))
14. What phrase did Jesus use to compel the crowd to consider His words? ([14:35](#))

Get It

15. What does it mean to "hate" your parents, wife, children, siblings, and your own life?
16. *How might the crowds have reacted to Jesus’ terms of discipleship?
17. How do most people react to Jesus’ terms of discipleship?
18. How possible do these conditions of discipleship seem to you now?
19. *What costs do we need to count in responding to Jesus?
20. What costs of following Jesus seem especially high to you?
21. Why is it worth paying the price to follow Jesus?
22. What are the properties of salt?
23. How are we like salt?
24. What is a person like who has lost his or her "saltiness"?

Apply It

25. *What relationships or other loyalties do you need to pray about to strengthen your loyalty to Jesus?
26. In what area of your life can you have a deliberate effect for Christ this week? How?

Option 2—Discussion of Sunday’s Sermon (slides posted on “Pastor’s Blog”)

- What significance does the passage/message have for you today?
- What does the passage/message mean to you?
- What does the passage/message affect your life?
- What can we learn about God, Christ, ourselves, our responsibility, our relationship to others?
- How does it reinforce this week’s core commitment?
- What do you want to do in response?
- What do we want to do in response?
- What will you take away from the sermon? From our group?

Option 3—Relate Your Study to Our Core Commitments

- What Core Commitment(s) does our study reinforce?
- What can we learn from this passage about this week’s Core Commitments?
- How can we live this passage individually? As a group?
- What do we agree to do in response to this passage?