



Matthew/Luke

The Cost of Following Jesus

Lesson Objective: Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it.

Activity: *The Right Price*

Supplies: dice, dry erase board or large sheet of paper, marker, and pantry items

Write down the prices of the pantry items for your own reference. Display a pantry item. Explain that the cost of the item is between \$1.11 and \$9.99. Draw three squares on a dry erase board for each number in the price. Choose a volunteer to roll the dice. Announce if the first digit in the price matches the number rolled. If the number does not match, ask the volunteer to guess if the actual number is higher or lower. Then reveal the answer and write it in the corresponding square. Repeat with the remaining numbers. Play again with a new volunteer and a different item as time allows.

Connect To activity to the lesson:

Have you ever seen something at the store that you believed was not worth the price? Have you ever paid a lot for something because you thought it was worth the price? How much you are willing to spend on an item can show you what you value. This is true not only about earthly possessions but about relationships, too. Our lesson today will help us realize what we value the most in our lives.

WORSHIP - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Introduction:

Have you ever given up something you really liked in order to get something you wanted even more than what you already had? Have you ever wanted to be friends with someone so badly that you were willing to do whatever it took to achieve that friendship? This can be a negative thing in people's lives, but it can also be the best thing that happens in your life if you are seeking a friendship with Jesus. But that doesn't mean it will be easy. Many people choose to follow Jesus and then turn away from Him when they realize that following Jesus is not easy. Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it. Today we will learn about the cost of following Jesus.

Video: "The Cost of Following Jesus" - (Video Transcript)

Large crowds traveled with Jesus; many people wanted to follow Him. 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. It would cost them a lot. "Anyone who comes to Me must be willing to leave his family. You must love me most of all—more than your own life! Anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be my disciple," Jesus said. Jesus urged the people to think about what they were doing. 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."

Then He told them another story: "If you were a king, you wouldn't go to war against another king without considering whether your army would be great enough to win the war. If you have too few men to fight, you would send some men to ask for peace before the battle even started." 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. Following Jesus means giving Him complete control of

your life. That is not easy, but it is worth it. 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.

Read: Matthew 8, 16, Luke 9, 14

Debrief:

What do you think Jesus meant when He said that anyone who is unwilling to suffer cannot be His disciple? *(Jesus told His disciples that because the world had persecuted Him, they would be persecuted. Believers should expect to suffer in a fallen world. But we can endure suffering if we fix our eyes on Jesus and look forward to eternity with Him.)*

Why is it important to understand the cost of following Jesus? *(Following Jesus without understanding the cost may make it difficult to persevere in trials. Jesus does not offer us an easy life, He offers us Himself. He is better than anything the world offers.)*

How can we encourage others who aren't sure if following Jesus is worth it? *(We can pray for others. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to follow Jesus. We can also point others to Jesus while remembering that suffering is temporary and one day Jesus will make all things right)*

Apply the Story:

If we cling to our life on earth, which is temporary, we will lose eternal life with God. But giving Jesus complete control over our lives now will mean enjoying eternal life with Him forever. The Bible says where we store up our treasure is where our heart and focus will be. So, we must choose what we pursue: earthly possessions and relationships, or an eternal relationship with God. The Bible also tells us that the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life. We must decide. Is it worth temporary hardship to gain eternal life with God?

Momentum Moment: *Guess the Leader!*

Sit in a group. Choose one person (the "guesser") to leave the room/area while you point to a player to be the leader. Explain that everyone should "follow the leader" by copying any movements they do. Invite the guesser back into the circle. They should watch kids' movements and try to guess who the leader is. The leader should try to change movements when they think the guesser is looking at someone else.

Say: what do you think it means to follow someone? How do you know he is the right person to follow? It's important to study who Jesus is (His character) in order to determine how He wants you to live. When we pursue a relationship with a family member or friend we must spend time with them. We pay attention to what they like and don't like. We must do the same thing with God. He has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit to help us know Him better. When we pursue these things we will be able to understand how to live our lives for Him.

Close with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.