

Unit 23 Session 2 The Cost of Following Jesus

Matthew 8; 16; Luke 9; 14

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

Remarks about lesson:

Wow! This story is pretty intense! These teachings of Jesus can often be hard to hear. It's very common to believe that God wants us to be happy, but how can we be happy if we know we will suffer hard times if we follow Jesus? The answer comes from understanding that there is a difference between what the world calls happiness and true joy that comes from God. The world often says happiness is the good feeling you have when everything is going the way you want it to go. The Bible promises the opposite of that. When we follow Jesus, we must expect some things to be hard or sad. Thankfully, what Jesus offers is better than worldly happiness! Jesus offers true joy! Joy isn't just feeling good because things are going well. Joy is feeling peace and hope because you understand that God is in control. We can feel joy even when we are sad. Joy comes from knowing that no matter what happens to us while we are living in a sinful world, Jesus will return and restore the world and we will live with Him forever. When we choose to follow Jesus, we must give Him complete control of our lives. Sometimes that can seem scary or even sad, but the truth is, we gain something much better than anything we give up. Following Jesus is not easy, but He is worth it!

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus is the Son of Man has no place to what? Matthew 8:20
2. What did Jesus say a person must take up to follow Him? Matthew 16:24
3. What did Jesus say about a king going to war? Luke 14:31
4. Why do you think we must be willing to give up our family and our life to follow Jesus?
5. What are some ways you might suffer for Jesus' sake?
6. What do we gain by following Jesus?

Personal reflection questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

