



**Luke 14:25** Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower.

Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

**Matthew 13:44** The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his JOY went and sold all he had and bought that field.

## Icebreaker

What are some of the worst things you have ever "wasted" money buying? (Maybe an "as seen on TV" a fad outfit, or a clunker car)

## Conversation Starters

Is it worth it to follow the gospel of Jesus rather than following the world? What are the costs of following Jesus? What if my questions and concerns aren't about following the gospel or following Jesus at all, but rather I don't want to be associated with certain christians? The world tempts us to follow it by offering to meet our physical needs, offering us security and offering us significance. What does the gospel offer in response? Have fun with your group, diving into these common questions!

- 1) What are some concerning things you see from other Christ followers, things that make you cringe or make you embarrassed they are part of the family of God? When you think about yourself, are things that make people cringe or confuse people about the way you follow Jesus?
- 2) We each have things that we think are worth the cost. They are different for everyone, what are those things for you? How do you decide to "spend" a little more for those things? No guilt, just honest sharing!!
- 3) How content are you with your possessions? How much more would make you truly happy?
- 4) What kinds of things give you security in this world? What things give you anxiety about the future?

- 5) Would you want to be really famous? What would be the benefits? What would be difficult?
- 6) How much of your time (honestly) do you devote to making sure you are noticed by the world on social media? How often do you check to see your "like" count if you post? If you aren't on social media, what kinds of things make you feel significant? Definition of significance -The quality of being worthy of attention; importance.
- 7) Read the scripture above and take turns talking about what these verses mean to you.
- 8) Jesus says to count the cost of following him. What are some of those costs, and which are the most difficult for you to pay?