Luke 14:25-33 Pastor Shannon Popp
"Healthy Disciples Fully Surrender" 11.1.26

Small Groups Study Guide: Read the entire Passage first

- Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

READ THE PASSAGE
What does this passage tell us about God? Who He is and what He does.

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to me
and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes,
and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Jesus is to be our first love, and then we love people with the love of Jesus. (vs 26)

Love is unconditional and sacrificial (vs 26)

27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

The cross does not symbolize our problems, but our death (vs 27)

The symbol of the cross is different from the symbol of bearing your own cross (vs 27)

Bearing my cross declares to the world that I deserve death, but Jesus died in my place (vs 27)

28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost,
whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and
is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, 'This man began to build
and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war,
will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him
who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a
great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one
of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

We are all to count the cost before committing to follow Jesus (vs 28-33)

We are called to love Jesus more than all of our possessions (vs 28-33)

Put into Practice:
Pray and examine your heart and allow the Spirit of God to reveal to you what you place above the Son of God—Jesus.
[] People
[] Pursuit
[] Possession

Small Group Discussion Questions
Luke 14:25–33 | Healthy for a Purpose
Sermon Title: *Healthy Disciples Fully Surrender*

Big Idea: Healthy disciples love Jesus above all people, pursuits, and possessions. We surrender everything to the One who surrendered His life for us.

Goal: Move beyond simply knowing what Jesus says to helping one another live surrendered lives, growing as disciples who make disciple makers.

1. PEOPLE — Who Has First Place in Your Heart?
Read Luke 14:25–26; Matthew 22:37–39; Matthew 10:37
Jesus makes a challenging statement about loving Him above even our closest family members. Why does Jesus demand first place in our hearts, and how does loving Him first actually help us love others better?
Let's get personal:

- Who has most influenced your understanding of love, and how has that shaped your relationship with Jesus?
- Can you share a time when loving someone actually competed with your obedience to Jesus?
- How can this group help one another keep Jesus first while loving our families faithfully?

2. PURSUITS — What Does Carrying Your Cross Really Mean?
Read Luke 14:27; Luke 9:23–24; Galatians 2:20
Jesus says that anyone unwilling to carry their cross cannot be His disciple. What is the difference between admiring the cross of Jesus and actually carrying your own cross?
Let's get personal:

- What dream, ambition, comfort, or personal plan has been hardest for you to surrender to Jesus?
- Share a time when following Jesus cost you something. What did God teach you through that experience?
- What might carrying your cross look like in your ordinary Monday-through-Saturday life?

3. POSSESSIONS — Do You Manage Your Stuff, or Does Your Stuff Manage You?
Read Luke 14:28–33; Matthew 6:19–21; 1 Timothy 6:17–19
Jesus tells two stories about counting the cost before declaring that His disciples must renounce everything they have. What does it practically mean to surrender ownership of our possessions to Jesus?
Let's get personal:

- Growing up, what did your family teach you about money, possessions, and generosity?
- What possession, financial goal, or lifestyle would be most difficult for you to surrender if Jesus asked?
- If you viewed your home, finances, and resources as belonging to God, what might change about how you use them?

4. FULL SURRENDER — What Are You Still Holding Back?
Read Luke 14:33; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15
Jesus doesn't ask for a little of our lives; He calls us to surrender all of our lives. How does remembering what Jesus surrendered for us change our willingness to surrender everything to Him?
Let's get personal:

- Looking back over your journey with Jesus, what has been the hardest thing you've had to surrender? What happened when you did?
- Of the three areas from the sermon: people, pursuits, or possessions—which one is the Holy Spirit revealing needs greater surrender today?
- What is one specific step of obedience you can take this week, and how can someone in this group encourage and pray for you?

PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUPS

Small groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth together in deep Christian relationships through the application of God's Word. The goal is to care about each other enough to ask the BIG questions of life, such as: What is God doing in your life? What is He asking you to do about it? Then walk with each other through life.

sharing, **caring**, **praying**, **serving, and mobilizing** each other.
SHARING – We come together each week to share a meal, God's Word, and how His story impacts our daily walk.
CARING – We gather together each week to ask great questions, listen to understand each other, and what God is doing in and through our lives.
PRAYING – We meet together to pray with each other. Not just to speak to God, but to hear from Him each week in community, and daily individually.
SERVING - We work together, using our unique gifts, to serve one another by God's grace and build the body in love each week.
MOBILIZING – We are praying for our neighbors by name and pray through "Good Events" once a quarter.

Main Purpose
Help your group see that the gospel is not merely behavior improvement but identity transformation. In Adam, sin and death reign. In Christ, grace reigns. Because of this, we rejoice — not just in what God does, but in who He is.
Pathway
When people move off track of the purpose, point to Scripture and remind people of the purpose.

Understanding the Questions
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Let's get personal:
Who has most influenced your understanding of love, and how has that shaped your relationship with Jesus?
Can you share a time when loving someone actually competed with your obedience to Jesus?
How can this group help one another keep Jesus first while loving our families faithfully?
Biblical Answer: Jesus is not commanding hatred toward our families. He is establishing the priority of our love. Matthew 10:37 clarifies that no earthly relationship should take precedence over our relationship with Jesus. When we love God first, His love shapes how we love others (1 John 4:19–21). Healthy disciples love people deeply without allowing anyone to take Jesus' rightful place.

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Let's get personal:
What dream, ambition, comfort, or personal plan has been hardest for you to surrender to Jesus?
Share a time when following Jesus cost you something. What did God teach you through that experience?
What might carrying your cross look like in your ordinary Monday-through-Saturday life?

Biblical Answer: Carrying our cross is not simply enduring difficulties; it means denying ourselves and surrendering our lives to Jesus, and dying daily to our own ambition. Really, saying I agree with my King, that I deserve to die. Luke 9:23 calls believers to take up their cross daily. Galatians 2:20 reminds us that our old life has been crucified with Christ and our new life is lived by faith in Him. We do not carry our cross to earn salvation; we surrender because Jesus has already paid our debt (Ephesians 2:8–10).

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Growing up, what did your family teach you about money, possessions, and generosity?
What possession, financial goal, or lifestyle would be most difficult for you to surrender if Jesus asked?
If you viewed your home, finances, and resources as belonging to God, what might change about how you use them?
Biblical Answer: Jesus calls His disciples to surrender their claim to ultimate ownership and recognize that everything belongs to God (Psalm 24:1). Matthew 6:21 teaches that our hearts follow our treasures. First Timothy 6:17–19 instructs believers to place their hope in God rather than riches and to be generous and ready to share. Healthy disciples do not simply give God a portion of what they possess; they recognize that everything they have is entrusted to them for His purposes.

4. FULL SURRENDER — What Are You Still Holding Back?
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Let's get personal:
Looking back over your journey with Jesus, what has been the hardest thing you've had to surrender? What happened when you did?
Of the three areas from the sermon: people, pursuits, or possessions—which one is the Holy Spirit revealing needs greater surrender today?
What is one specific step of obedience you can take this week, and how can someone in this group encourage and pray for you?
Biblical Answer: Romans 12:1–2 calls believers to offer their lives as living sacrifices in response to God's mercy. Second Corinthians 5:14–15 explains that Christ died so those who live would no longer live for themselves but for Him. Full surrender is not how we purchase God's love; it is our grateful response to the unconditional and sacrificial love Jesus has already demonstrated (Romans 5:8).

Close in Prayer — MVPs
Move into MVPs (Memorize Verses & Prayer with each other). Invite each person to share one area where the Holy Spirit is calling them to surrender more fully to Jesus.

Encourage the group to listen with compassion, respond with Scripture, and pray for one another by name.