

Series: The Parables of Jesus
The Cost of Discipleship

For the week beginning 2.8.10

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a passionate student of the Bible, pastor, teacher, author, and a fervent disciple of Christ. He surprised and dismayed his parents when he decided, by age 14, to become a theologian and later a pastor. When his older brother told him not to waste his life in such a *"poor, feeble, boring, petty, bourgeois institution as the Church"*, Dietrich replied: *"If what you say is true, I shall reform it!"* Bonhoeffer lived out his faith, and its message. His church and seminary were closed and destroyed by the Nazi's. He was imprisoned in 1943; and eventually Bonhoeffer, at just 39, paid the ultimate price for his faith when he was executed by the Nazi's in 1945. The following is an excerpt from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, **The Cost of Discipleship**, that highlights much of what Bonhoeffer believed and taught:

Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for which sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "you were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

Clearly, God's grace was costly for Father and Son; but, Bonhoeffer is saying God's grace is costly for us too. What does he mean, since grace, by definition, cannot be bought? He means we're called to seek Jesus with all our hearts, knock on God's door, and give up all we have to obtain Him. It is the losing of our lives, surrendering everything, that he's talking about when he says grace is costly. But here's the key, and if we grasp it, we undergo the ultimate paradigm shift: without Christ, the "everything" that it costs us to follow Him, is nothing. We are miserable without Jesus and nothing we have can satisfy us.

Bonhoeffer says, "The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing." Well, isn't that the gospel? No. Following Jesus is more than signing a card or repeating a prayer, though someone coming to Christ can do either of those. Following Jesus **is not**: returning to life as usual, the only difference being that we're now going to Heaven. Following Jesus **is** abandoning trust in ourselves, surrendering all we are and have to Him. This, and nothing less, is discipleship.

**Grace is
Free,
but it isn't
cheap.**

MONDAY — The Cost is My Agenda

Today's Big Point: *While our nature compels us to possess and control, Jesus makes it clear that in order to be His disciple we need to abandon our own agenda for His.*

Places to Go... Four-year-old Shuana was given strict boundaries from her mother regarding where to ride her tricycle, with the threat of a spanking if not obeyed. Shauna's mom reminded her that she would be watching her from inside the house. Shuana pondered this a minute, looked her mother in the eye, and said very emphatically, "*Well you might as well spank me now, because I got places to go!*"

When God gives us direction or boundaries in life, do we respond by trusting and obeying him; or, do we respond like little Shuana—with a rebellious and prideful spirit, demanding to take our own path?

READ...What does the Bible say?

Luke 14:25-26 (New Living Translation)

²⁵A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, ²⁶"If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.

Romans 8:6 (New Living Translation)

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

THINK...Find the answers

If we are to obey the words of Jesus in Luke 14:26, who or what must we allow to control our minds? (see Romans 8:6 for a hint)

According to Luke 14:26, what place does Jesus want in our lives?

LIVE...What will you do now?

What does it mean to you to love something so much that, in comparison, you're willing to hate everything and everyone else?

Are you willing to love Jesus that much in order to be His disciple?

If Christ should bid me go this way, and my mother did hang about my neck to draw me another; and my father were in my way, bowing at my knees with tears entreating me not to go; and my children plucking at my skirts should seek to pull me the other way, I must unclasp my mother, I must push to the very ground my father, and put aside my children, for I must follow Christ!" ~**St. Jerome**

How can our relationships here benefit from putting Christ first in our minds and hearts?

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

Lord Jesus, I learned long ago that I can't rely on my own will and determination. I'm weak. Today I call upon You afresh for help to follow You faithfully. Forgive my sins of willfulness and selfishness. Forgive my grasping at the props of the world. Forgive my flimsy excuses and help me put You first - above all else in my life. In Your holy name, I pray. Amen.

Jesus spoke to the crowd in the strongest possible terms: Unless a person "hates" even his close family members, even his own life, he can't be a disciple. The Greek word is *miseo*, "**hate, detest, abhor.**" If you take this literally, it is shocking. Jesus means it to be shocking, jolting, to provoke real listening. Hating isn't neutral. Jesus' words were intended to shock and challenge. He uses hyperbole, an overstatement in order to make a point with maximum impact. We've seen this before in Jesus' teaching style: cutting off one's hand (Mt. 5:29-30), or a timber in one's eye (Lk. 6:41-42). Jesus states something in a striking, unforgettable way, a way that challenges us and forces us to think. He is contrasting our allegiance to Him in the strongest possible way. No earthly tie, however close, must take precedence over our allegiance and obedience to Jesus. He's to be #1 -- by far! No one else should even come close!

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Acts 11

Acts 11:1-3 According to Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary (1388), Gentiles, or non-Jews, were very much looked down upon. "[The gentiles] were called dogs (Matt. 15:26) and unclean (10:14)." Many early Christian Jews believed that Gentile converts to Christianity had to become Jewish first, to include becoming circumcised. Many of these Christian Jews "were not pleased that the Gentiles were considered equal to them in the eyes of God, based on nothing more than their faith in Christ."

Acts 11:12-14 "Peter had wisely taken 6 brethren with him when he visited Cornelius's home (10:23). He anticipated the argument from 'those of the circumcision' (v.2)" (1390).

Acts 11:15 "At the beginning is a reference to the Day of Pentecost (2:4), approximately ten years earlier" (1390).

Acts 11:16 "baptized with the Holy Spirit: This statement is found seven times in the NT (1:5; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; 1 Cor. 12:13). The reference is to a once-for-all act whereby Christ places believers in the care and safekeeping of the Holy Spirit until the day He returns" (1390).

Acts 11:25 "Because Barnabas was sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit (v.24), God was able to bring Saul of Tarsus to his mind again. The disciples in Jerusalem were afraid of Saul and refused to believe that he was a disciple (9:26). Barnabas, however, had defended Saul before the apostles (9:27)" (1390).

Acts 11:26 "Originally, the church called themselves 'The Way.' But later they began to refer to themselves as Christians, despite the fact that the name most likely was originally used to ridicule the believers" (1390).

TUESDAY — The Cost is the Cross I Bear

Today's Big Point: *Carrying our own cross means that we must accept the death of our own self-directed life, die to ourselves daily, and be willing to face whatever physical, emotional, or social persecution that ensues—and follow Jesus. Being a disciple, Jesus is saying, demands full commitment; nothing less will do.*

Persecuted... Authorities routinely persecute Christians in China, yet Christianity is still spreading rapidly. Freddie Sun, a director for Christian Aid Mission, reports that the Communists closely monitor people's telephones and e-mails, intrude into Christian gatherings and arrest believers. Authorities ban Christian Bible studies, retreat meetings, worship services and other Christian activities which do not have the approval and control of the government's religious bureau. Moreover, without approval, these church gatherings are condemned as illegal. Yet when becoming a disciple of Jesus is almost certainly going to result in persecution, over 100 million Chinese have chosen to follow Christ Jesus. Many Christians have been detained and arrested. Sun says "We don't call it 'prison,' we call it a 'theological school' training our faith, and training our loyalty to the Lord Jesus."

READ...What does the Bible say?

Luke 14:27 (New Living Translation)

And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Galatians 6:14 (New Living Translation)

As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world's interest in me has also died.

Philippians 2:3-8 (New Living Translation)

³Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

THINK...Find the answers

What does it mean to 'carry your own cross'? If it doesn't mean bearing your own life's burdens, then what DOES it mean? (if you're having trouble, re-read the passages from Galatians and Philippians)

LIVE...What will you do now?

Jesus knew that he needed to prepare his disciples, for he knows what is in man. He knows that every one of us has a powerful inborn desire to be liked and loved by everyone; to be happy and prosperous; to enjoy pleasure, rest, fun. Because of this

**It is said of missionaries of the 19th Century, embarking on missions overseas, that they often packed their belongings in a coffin instead of a trunk so they would have something to be buried in.
They never expected to return.**

we have the tendency to avoid anything that might make people dislike us, to drop the cross and run away from suffering, and to be faithful to Jesus unless such faithfulness results in some sort of loss--loss of reputation or possessions of family. What poses the biggest competition for the cross in your life?

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

Jesus, I'm so tempted to see the world through selfish lenses. It's so easy to want to indulge rather than denying myself. Forgive me for losing sight of You and Your way. Help me to learn what it means to take up my cross—daily, and follow wherever You go, whatever the cost. Thank You for your amazing patience. Amen.

Picture a condemned criminal carrying his cross through the jeering crowds to execution. When the Roman Empire crucified a criminal or captive, the victim was often forced to carry his cross part of the way to the crucifixion site. Carrying his cross through the heart of the city was the admission that Rome was right and you were wrong. And, just in case they forgot that, there was always the crowd there reminding them.

So, when Jesus instructed His followers to carry their crosses and follow Him, He was referring to a public display before others that Jesus was right and that the disciples were following Him even unto their deaths.

We must look to Jesus' cross to understand ours. If we're serious about following Christ then we must take the same path...it's a Cross-walk!

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Acts 12

Acts 12:1-3 This Herod was "Herod Agrippa I, the nephew of Herod Antipas who murdered John the Baptist, and the grandson of Herod the Great who had the children of Bethlehem put to death in his search for [baby] Jesus" (1391). "James was the first of the twelve apostles to die for the sake of the gospel, and the only one whose death is recorded in the NT. Being put to death with the sword meant being beheaded" (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary 1391).

Acts 12:5-10 This was Peter's third arrest and he was slated to be executed after the Passover. In a previous incarceration, angels helped him escape (5:19-20) so this time he was placed in maximum security with 16 soldiers guarding him (1391).

Acts 12:11 "delivered me from the hand of Herod: Why was Peter's life spared while James's life was taken? The answer is the sovereign will of God. If we believe that God is good and wise, we can trust that what He allowed to happen was part of His wise plan...When we place our complete trust in the goodness of God, we can find true peace. God is in control despite any appearance to the contrary" (1391-1392).

Acts 12:12-15 "It is interesting to note that those who were praying so fervently for Peter's deliverance (v.12) should regard as insane the person who informed them that their prayers had been answered" (1392).

Acts 12:25 "They had fulfilled their ministry, bringing famine relief from Antioch to Judea (11:29,30)" (1394).

WEDNESDAY – Counting the Cost

Today's Big Point: *Discipleship is a decision that demands the utmost seriousness and commitment. Jesus wants us to be very, very sure that we want to follow Him as His disciple before we make that commitment.*

A CARTFUL OF OOPS... On one of my regular trips to the grocery store, I went around the store with my cart filling it up with all the usual items. I had the cart loaded. When I had to hold my hand over the last couple of items so that they wouldn't fall out, I knew it was time to check-out. The store was busy and it took quite some time to get through everything in my cart. I reached in my wallet for my debit card (thank you Dave Ramsey) and it was nowhere to be seen! They had all my groceries bagged and in the cart and I had no way to pay for them! Embarrassed, I asked the clerk if they could hold the groceries while I ran home to look for my card...they could...I ran home...came back and paid for the groceries. Perhaps it was just a little lesson from God in making sure I had counted the cost and knew how I could pay. –Randy, LIO team.

READ...What does the Bible say?

Luke 14:28-30 (New Living Translation)

²⁸ "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?"

²⁹ "Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!'"

Luke 18:22-23 (New Living Translation)

²² When Jesus heard his answer, He said, "There is still one thing you haven't done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." ²³ But when the man heard this he became very sad, for he was very rich.

THINK...Find the answers

Why did the man become sad when Jesus told him, in Luke 18:22-23, the one last thing he needed to do for his salvation?

LIVE...What will you do now?

We each have a cost that we need to "pay" in order to be the Christ-following disciple that Jesus wants us to be—so that Jesus takes His rightful spot as your 'first love'. So, take a look at your own life and write down a couple of thoughts or ideas that you may have of what it may "cost" you to be a disciple of Christ—what you may need to sacrifice (and keep in mind that God may have you right where He wants you to be!).

Salvation is God's gift to us because Jesus died for us on the cross.
Discipleship is our gift to Him as we take up our cross, die to self, and follow Him.

Are you willing to sacrifice it all (if it came to that) in order to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus?

We've talked a lot about the high cost of following Jesus. What would be some costs for you if you chose not to follow Jesus?

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

For many of us, we're not sure if we're where God wants us...or if the cost has prevented us from getting there. A simple prayer to God is all that it takes...just ask God to show you: *"Show me Lord where you want me to be, and show me what's in the way of me getting there."* And then, listen. If He doesn't seem to answer right away...remember the lesson from last week, and be persistent!

To truly follow Jesus Christ, we must consider the cost and put Him above everything else. Salvation is both absolutely free and yet it costs you your very life. You receive it freely at no expense to you, but once you receive it, you have just committed everything you are and have to Jesus Christ. You may protest, "That's a contradiction! How can something be both free and costly at the same time?" Let me illustrate. Suppose I had a desire to climb Mount Everest; but, it costs about \$70,000 to do it, and I don't have that kind of money. Suppose a wealthy businessman heard of my desire and offered to pay for the entire expedition. He would buy all the expensive clothing and gear, he would pay for my transportation, the guides, and the training. It's totally free for me. But if I accept his free offer, I have just committed myself to months of difficult training and arduous effort. It could even cost me my very life, because many good climbers die trying to climb Mount Everest. It is free and yet very costly.

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Acts 13

Acts 13:1-3 – *The events in this chapter occur about 25 years after Pentecost. Notice how the men fasted and prayed in order to wait for where God wanted them to go rather than just strike out on their own. There is a pattern in the New Testament of the gospel being spread in teams of people rather than the burden of sharing the gospel resting with just one person.*

Acts 13:4-12 – *The men went on their way to minister and share the gospel message. The word "minister" comes from the word "liturgeda" –the predecessor to the word, "liturgy," which means to serve in a priestly manner. Salamis was a principle trade city given its close proximity to the Mediterranean and therefore, there were many synagogues to preach at. Paphos was a city known for moral depravity. The sorcerer, Bar-Jesus, was a medium who contacted mediums. The word "sorcerer" comes from the word, "magos" which is where the word, "magi" comes from and there are both positive and negative connotations of the word.*

Acts 13:16 – *As a Jew, a rabbi and a leader, Paul would be welcome to speak in the synagogue. That speaking opportunity would give Paul a chance to reach the Jews for Christ, therefore, having more people available to reach the Gentiles with the gospel.*

Acts 13: 42-51 – *The message the men preached was explosive! There was chaos because people were coming to faith in Christ and upsetting the political, social and religious balance of the city. The turmoil was the earthly manifestation of the clash between good and evil.*

THURSDAY — The Cost is Submission

Today's Big Point: *The cost of discipleship is submission to God and His will for your life. If you're not following Him and His way of thinking, then you're following someone else's way of thinking. You could be setting yourself up to fight against Jesus and His teachings.*

Willing to die... Back when communism reigned in Russia, one Sunday, a particular group of believers gathered for worship. They had arrived throughout the day so as to not arouse suspicion by KGB informants. By dark, they were all inside, windows closed, doors locked. They began by singing a hymn quietly, when suddenly the door was pushed open and in walked two soldiers with automatic weapons, demanding that they all line up against the wall. One shouted, "If you wish to renounce your commitment to Jesus Christ, leave now!" Two or three left quickly. After a few more seconds, two more. Finally, a couple more slipped out into the anonymity of the night. After a few moments of complete silence, the soldiers closed and locked the door. They said, "Keep your hands up...but in praise to God. We too are Christians and we have learned to not trust anyone who is not willing to die for their faith."

READ...What does the Bible say?

Luke 14:31-33 (New Living Translation)

"Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³²And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

Luke 9:24 (New Living Translation)

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

THINK...Find the answers

In Luke 14:33, what does Jesus ask you to give up to be his disciple?

What must you be prepared to give up according to Luke 9:24? If you are willing to pay the price, what will you gain?

LIVE...What will you do now?

Are you prepared to give up everything to follow Jesus—what does that mean to you? List the relationships and/or possessions that will be the most difficult to subordinate to your relationship with Christ.

Are you stronger than God? That might seem like a strange question, but secretly

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.

~Romans 12:1

some of us think we have arms long enough to box with God. Are you prepared to go to war against an overwhelming force, or are you prepared to declare peace with Jesus and live as He would want you to live?

Think back to this weekend's message and the video, "In-between." The woman in the video struggled with the things that got between her and God. How do you know when things are getting between you and God? Are you in that place now? If so, what do you need to do about it?

PRAY...God, What do you want me to know & do?

As you pray today reflect on your commitment to being a disciple of Jesus and the things that are between you and God that interfere with your full devotion to being a follower. Ask God to help you understand what is keeping you from making the commitment He wants and demands of you. Finally, ask God for the courage, wisdom and faith to begin the journey of submission to His will for your life, so that you may grow closer to being a devoted disciple of Christ Jesus.

Discipleship is tough! Discipleship is not easy and Jesus was very straight forward about what was required. His invitation to "Follow me" is an invitation to total devotion to Him and to spiritual warfare over a lifetime. You don't want to be like the general who went to war and wasn't ready for what was ahead. Rather, if you commit yourself to following Jesus and His teachings, be ready for the long haul to fight, endure, and battle with the forces of darkness.

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Acts 14

Acts 14:8-13 – After Paul healed the lame man, the people of Lystra believed that the Greek gods, Zeus and Hermes had come back to visit them. The people of Lystra believed that the Greek gods had visited years earlier and had destroyed the town, except for two people who fed and cared for the gods. This time, the people of Lystra were not going to treat their visitors poorly, which is why they wanted to make sacrifices in Paul and Barnabas' name.

Acts 14:15 – Rather than momentarily basking in the glory of the people, Paul is horrified by their desire to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods. The men could have parlayed their popularity into power and position, but instead, they approached the situation with humility.

Acts 14:19 – There were people from Antioch who traveled many miles to rile up the people in Lystra. They were successful in getting the crowd angry enough to stone Paul and leave him for dead.

Acts 14:20 – Paul got up from his stoning, which is usually a deadly form of punishment, and he went back to preaching. He was no doubt bloodied and bruised from his punishment, but Paul was not deterred from his mission and continued to preach the gospel.

FRIDAY — Weekly wrap-up

This is a feature of the Living It Out: Daily Bible Study where you get the chance to re-visit the verse that impacted you the most this week.

Summary: Jesus looks at the large crowd traveling with him and says—
Your allegiance to Me must be complete, any other must pale before it. You must be constantly ready to die for Me, if necessary, as you follow Me. You must count the cost before you start, to determine if you are committed enough to follow Me—if you realize that you aren't, then don't even begin. And, you must give up everything you have to follow Me.
I wonder what the crowd said—what they did. What will you do or say to this? Did they gradually thin out as his words struck home, or did his words challenge them to move from their shallow following to determined, committed following? Our hope and prayer is that the latter result prevailed -- and prevails in your life.

Scripture: Review this week's Living It Out and write out the scripture verse that had the most impact on you in the space below.

Observation: What did you learn in this verse? What might God be trying to say to you through this verse?

Application: Personalize this verse by asking yourself what you need to do as a result of what you've just read - have you been encouraged or is there something you might need to consider differently?

Prayer: Write out a prayer asking God to help you use this verse in your life or to help you understand it more fully. Prayer is a two-way conversation, so make sure to take time to wait for God to respond.

THIS WEEK'S BIG POINT: The most important thing I learned during the Living It Out: Daily Bible Study this week was:

DAILY BIBLE READING COMMENTARY: Acts 15

Acts 15:1-5—Now that the gospel message was open to Gentiles, there was a sharp debate amongst the believers. There were those who believed that salvation was incomplete without circumcision in accordance with the laws of Moses.

For the Jews, it must have seemed so incredulous that Gentiles could be justified with God through just faith. Jewish people spent a lifetime learning in the synagogues, conforming to different patterns of living and legalistically following many laws – it must have been so difficult to hear that a group of folks could be made right with God even though they have lived irreligiously before that time. The Jews felt that salvation by faith alone just wasn't fair. Therefore, the Jewish people wanted the Gentiles to have to “work” for their salvation even though the scriptures are clear that there is nothing we can do to earn our salvation.

Acts 15:22-30—In order to thwart any future confusion, there was a letter written and it would be circulated amongst the believers as the authoritative statement on that issue. The new believers were in need of discipleship because their cultures were filled with all sorts of customs and rituals that were no longer to be part of their new Christian life.

Family Activity Section

Lesson: Read this scripture to the group: “And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, ‘There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!’ Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own. Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!” Luke 14:25-35

Activity: Ask the children to describe something that they decided to do that was a difficult journey, but they are glad they did it. This could be really funny. Tell them something like, one of my most difficult things to do as a child was to stop sucking my thumb, but I am glad I did! Can you imagine if I was still sucking my thumb? Some things in life are really hard to do, but in the end they are so worth it. Deciding to be a disciple of Christ is one of those difficult decisions where we need to count the cost. God asks us to be willing to give up everything we own to follow him. Wow! Does it mean we will have to? It is different for everyone, but should we be willing to if he needs us to do so? YES! Doing this grows our faith in him, and when we put our faith in him He can do amazing things.

Pray: God, thank you for letting us know that we should take the time to count the cost of discipleship. When we do take the time to think about the journey ahead and what it will require of us, we have the chance to accept all of the challenges we will face without regret. Becoming a disciple is worth the cost. Amen!

Living It Out Memory Verse...Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me."

Living It Out

It is the dream of CedarCreek that everyone who calls this their church home will be reading and studying the same topics, both individually and in groups. Each week, join with thousands of others at CedarCreek Church in applying God's Word, the Bible, into your daily life. Our hope is that while we learn and grow together, as individuals and as a church, we will collectively live out the weekend message.

Living It Out resources, such as the Daily Bible Study, Daily Bible Reading Plan, Discussion Questions and Scripture Memory Verses, are designed to help us embrace a missional mindset...a mindset that compels us to love Jesus, serve others and tell the world about Christ.

Living It Out: Daily Bible Study...Daily Bible study activities to reflect on the weekend message

Living It Out: Daily Bible Reading Plan...Read through the New Testament in a year

Living It Out: Discussion Questions...Weekly questions to discuss with others

Living It Out: Scripture Memory...Memorize one Bible verse per month

All of these resources are also available electronically at www.livingitout.tv, where you can subscribe to have any or all of them emailed to you as they are updated.

We Want Your Feedback!

Tell us about any questions or comments you have about this week's Living It Out: Daily Bible Study. Forward them to barbr@cedarcreek.tv.

<p>CedarCreek Church 29129 Lime City Road Perrysburg, Oh 43551 Phone: 419.661.8661 Fax: 419.661.8665 www.cedarcreek.tv www.livingitout.tv</p>	<p>RESOURCES: <i>The Bible</i> <i>The Cost of Discipleship</i> Dietrich Bonhoeffer <i>The Me I Want To Be</i> John Ortberg</p>	<p>Living It Out: Daily Bible Reading Plan scriptures are listed for each day. By completing each of the daily readings, you will read the entire New Testament in 1 year. These readings are separate from the Daily Bible Study.</p>	<p>This weeks Living It Out study written by: Randy Gross Doug Haynam Jamey Koralewski Terri Seagert</p>
--	--	---	--