

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 11: The Cost of Discipleship (from Luke 9:57-62)

To the Teacher:

This week's lesson is a difficult one, not just for kids but for adults too! It is hard to imagine Jesus asking someone not to say goodbye to their family or to take the time to bury their father. As you prepare for this lesson, pray that God would give you insight into these difficult verses and that He would fill your heart with compassion for the kids who may have trouble making sense of this story. Ultimately, we want the kids to understand what Jesus is calling people to give up are the things they are not able to keep in this life, and what He is offering in place are the things they will not lose for all of eternity.

- **Big Idea:** To be Jesus' disciple means to seek God's Kingdom and give up attachments to the world.
- **Question:** Can you think of a time when you had to choose between two things you really wanted to do? How did you decide?
- **Starter:** 'Would You Rather...?'
Use the attached worksheet (pg 3). Starting from the top left corner and reading left to right, the questions start out silly and pretty easy to answer. The choices become increasingly difficult and conclude with the difficult decisions we are often forced to make when we choose to follow Jesus with our lives. As you move into the story, explain they are about to hear about people who were asked by Jesus to make these same types of decisions.
- **Story:** from Luke 9:57-62
[READ]
One day Jesus and his disciples were walking along a road when a man came up to them. He said, "Jesus, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus wanted the man to understand what his life would be like if he followed him. Jesus said to the man, "Do you see how the foxes and other wild animals have dens where they can sleep? And do you see how even the birds have nests that they can go to at night? Unlike them, I must keep traveling to tell people about God's Kingdom. I live without very many belongings because caring for them would take too much time and I will never have one place where I can go to lie down. If you follow Me, that is what your life will be like too."

Then Jesus asked another person who was close by to follow Him. The man said, "Lord, my father has died. Please let me bury him before I follow you." Jesus said to the man, "Let the people who do not love God and are not doing His work take care of people that are already dead. It is important that you tell people about God's Kingdom right now while they are still alive!"

While they were still walking, one more person came up to Jesus. He said to Him, "Lord I will follow you, but please let me go back to my family first so I can tell them goodbye." Jesus replied, "God is your Father and it is time for you to do the work that He has for you. If you decide to go back to your old life, even for a little bit, you will not be able to do what God wants you to do."

[Things to Point Out]

- Being a disciple of Jesus is not easy. He asks us to give up everything.
- Ask: What were the things Jesus told the people they would need to give up in order to follow him? *(material possessions, family, etc.)*
- Ask: Why do you think Jesus told the first man he did not have many possessions or a place to lie down? *(Jesus wanted the man to understand what it would cost to follow him - his kingdom is bigger than those things)*
- Ask: Why didn't Jesus want the second man to go and bury his father? *(Jesus was showing how urgent it is for people to hear the Good News and nothing should keep us from sharing)*
- Ask: Why couldn't the third person say goodbye to their family? *(When we choose to follow Jesus we have to leave behind the things in life that keep us from following him)*
- Ask: The story did not tell us whether these three people chose to follow Jesus. What do you think they decided to do?

Once the kids return to their classes, encourage teachers to ask them what questions they have about the lesson or what was difficult to understand. Some of them may understand the concepts, but it may still be difficult to accept.

• **Prayer:**

Father, following Your Son Jesus can be difficult. Please help us to hear Your words, to believe them, and to live our lives the way You want us to live. Forgive us for the times when we do not listen or obey You. Spirit, comfort us when we are hurt by things of this world. We love You and trust You always do what is true, right, and beautiful. Amen.

- **Craft:** Use attached coloring and activity sheet

- **BLESS Activity:**

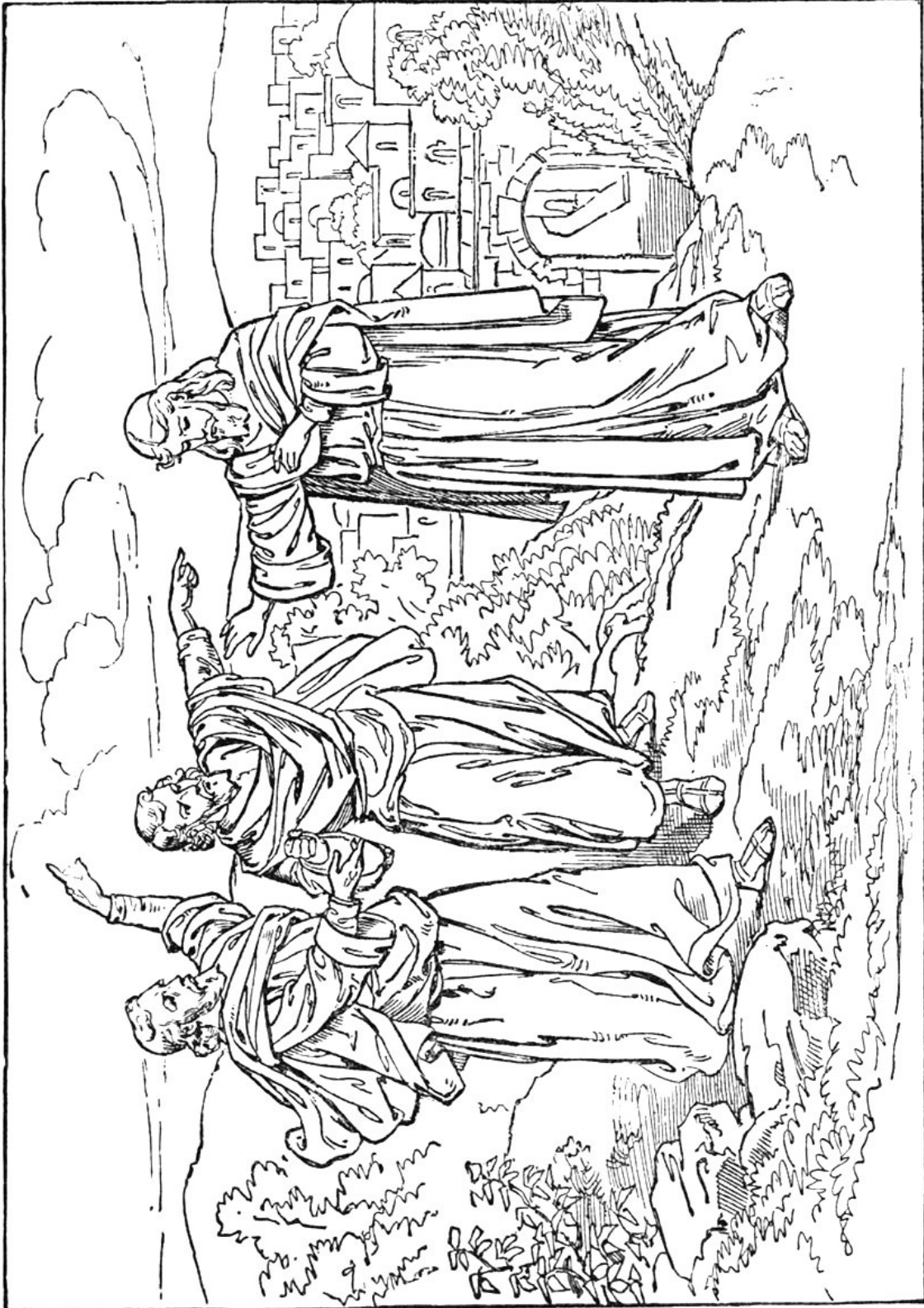
For kids to do during the week

Jesus spoke some difficult truths to the three people about following him. Think of one person in your life who needs to hear the truth about Jesus and find a way to **Speak** to them about Jesus this week.

<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Eat Chocolate or Lima Beans?</p>	<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Swim With Dolphins or Sharks?</p>	<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Only Say 50 Words Per Day or Only Walk 50 Steps Per Day?</p>
<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Live The Rest of Your Life Without T.V. or Candy?</p>	<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Obey Jesus or Live a Comfortable Life?</p>	<p>Would You Rather...</p> <p>Follow Jesus or Stay With Your Family?</p>



CEREZO BARDELO 00



The Cost of Following Jesus

Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 9:57-62 (NIV).

E B Q D O P M G F V V Y K A V
 W W A J P J L F Z Z O X I L N
 P E B O O Y H O S Q N F N T A
 H M H M L X D Z W B K H G S L
 K A A I W D F F O X E S D X O
 V N M O N A I O U C D L O D N
 I A A A N Y L S L L Q U N A G
 F K H O R K R K L L F I E H S
 B A F F C L O M I D O C C D Y
 U Y T A O A A C B N A W R J S
 R E B H S B D I O L G I U E S
 Y Y R T E S B Z P C B A L K O
 H U S J U R G D Q Z Z O O L N
 E E W H E R E V E R H O C J I
 N O U Y B E Y Y X L L W C V P

FOXES	WHEREVER	HOLES	FATHER	FAMILY
PLOW	LOOKS	BIRDS	HAND	KINGDON
HEAD	ROAD	BACK	PLACE	WALKING
FOLLOW	ALONG	NESTS	BURY	MAN