



INTRODUCTION

After the resurrection many of Jesus' followers probably were wondering: "What's next?" Would Jesus overthrow the Roman government, would he set up an earthly kingdom...? Instead Jesus told them to go and make disciples... We are all invited to follow him. *You* are invited to follow him, but there's something you need to know about following Jesus. It will cost you something eventually. It may cost you money, career advancement, or even relationships. That's because Jesus offers us the choice of denying ourselves *now* or losing ourselves *later*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you knew you were supposed to do something difficult. Did you do it? What was the outcome?
2. Have you ever seen someone else pay a price for deciding to follow Jesus? How did that person's experiences influence your own faith?
3. Has your faith ever cost you something? If so, how has paying that price changed your relationship with God?
4. Read **Mark 8:34–36**. How do Jesus' words challenge you? In what ways do they give you comfort?
5. Are you currently being nudged to do something, say something, quit something, start something, or give up something? What can this group do to support you?

MOVING FORWARD

Salvation is a free gift. It costs us nothing. Following Jesus eventually costs us something, but your soul is worth more than whatever following Jesus costs you. God has been faithful to you in the past, and he will continue to be faithful to you during challenging seasons. One day you'll look back on the price you paid, the things you gave up, and you'll be glad you chose to follow Jesus.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Mark 8:34