

# The Cost of Discipleship

“True discipleship will always cost you something.”

As a group, discuss the statement above and what it means. Discipleship should cost us something. Discipleship is the process or method of being made into a disciple and/or making disciples.

**Read Matthew 19:16-26.** What was the rich young ruler trying to seek or accomplish in his conversation with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss Jesus’ response to the rich young ruler’s question. What was this going to cost him? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Acts 5:1-11.** What can we learn from the mistakes of Ananias and Sapphira? \_\_\_\_\_

Where might you struggle in this area of holding back a portion of what God has asked for in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

## Discipleship has a price:

The sanctification process takes time, focus, and sacrifice. For many Christians across the world, being a disciple of Jesus comes at the high price of physical persecution and even death. For others, the price of discipleship could look like a cost of our schedules, money, and even relationships.

**Schedules:** For most of us, our schedules dictate our priorities. The things that make our schedule become a priority, and the things that we can’t seem to make room for go unnoticed. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, our number one priority should be discipleship, both in being discipled and making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). The greatest challenge is our willingness to take something off our busy schedules to replace it with time for discipleship. *Spend some time looking at your weekly schedule. What regular activities or events in your life compete for your discipleship time?*

**Money/Possessions:** “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34)

How can we relate to the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 and Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5? *What tendencies do you have in your life that cause money/possessions to take priority over discipleship? How can you combat these tendencies?*

**Relationships:** When we choose to put our faith and trust in Jesus, we are making the decision that our relationship with Jesus becomes the most important relationship in our life. Like any healthy relationship, our relationship with Christ is to be nurtured and focused on. Giving our time and focus to Jesus might get in the way of other relationships.

Discuss as a group: *Am I putting any other relationship in my life above my relationship with Christ?*

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## Personal application:

In what ways has your personal discipleship or the discipleship of others costed you something? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any area in your life that you feel like you might be holding back, instead of giving up to grow closer to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Out of the three (time, money, and relationships) what is your biggest challenge to give up for the sake of discipleship? \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION STEP: Write what you will DO, in God's power to apply these truths \_\_\_\_\_