WEEK 6 — You Can't Stay Where You Are

February 14 — Super Bowl Sunday • Luke 14:28–33

MAIN POINT

I cannot follow Jesus and insist on staying exactly where I am.

Aim: Teach that following Jesus changes loyalties, habits, priorities, and use of resources.

Primary NT: Luke 14:28–33

Supporting NT: Luke 9:23–26; Mark 10:17–22; Philippians 2:5–8; Galatians 6:9

Key Doctrine: Discipleship and surrender

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use these questions and illustrations to introduce the topic and surface lived experience.

What do you value enough to rearrange your schedule around? Sports fans adjust calendars, resources, and plans because something matters deeply.

Transition: Read the New Testament passage before turning to the Moses illustration.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and what it means. Read the assigned passage before offering interpretation.

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 14:28–33.

- What repeated words appear in Luke 14?
- Why does Jesus talk about counting the cost?
- What does Jesus refuse to hide?
- What does verse 33 require?

Movement 1 — Jesus refuses to hide the cost

Connect: Luke 14:28–33

Grace is free; discipleship is costly. Sacrifice does not purchase salvation.

Apply: What does following Him mean for your priorities?

Leader explanation: Luke 14:25–33 contains stark sayings about discipleship and two short examples about calculating costs. Jesus is not teaching hatred of family as a virtue; His hyperbolic comparison demands that allegiance to Him surpass every competing loyalty.

Moses illustration: Moses cannot remain in Midian while joining the Exodus mission (Ex 4:18-31, 5:1-6:9).

Movement 2 — Invitation requires adjustment

Connect: Luke 9:23–26

Cross-bearing is daily; Jesus' lordship challenges schedules, spending, relationships, reputation, comfort, habits, and control.

Apply: Which specific area needs to change?

Leader explanation: Luke 9:23 calls for daily self-denial and cross-bearing. The language of the cross should not be trivialized into ordinary inconveniences. Jesus invites followers to costly identification with Him, while His grace remains the basis of salvation.

Movement 3 — We may want Jesus without surrender

Connect: Mark 10:17–22; Philippians 2:5–8

The rich ruler wanted life but resisted relinquishing what ruled him. Christ's humility models surrender.

Apply: What one step can be taken within 24 hours?

Leader explanation: Mark 10:17–22 demonstrates how possessions can reveal rival loyalties. Jesus' instruction addresses this man's particular bondage and challenges all readers to examine their own competing treasures. Philippians 2:5–8 presents Jesus' humility as the pattern for His people.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why must disciples count the cost?
- How is discipleship different from earning salvation?
- Why is cross-bearing daily?
- What is hardest to surrender?
- What cost do you fear?
- Where do you wish Jesus would lower His expectations?
- What adjustment have you postponed?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the Scripture directly shapes their week. Invite a concrete response without pressuring anyone to disclose private circumstances.

- What can you surrender this week?
- Do you think you know where god is calling you?
- Do you know what it will cost in terms of sacrifice?

PRAYER

Guided prayer: Jesus, You are Lord. I surrender my schedule, comfort, resources, relationships, and control. Give courage to change.

BETWEEN-WEEK PRACTICE

READ Luke 14:25–33; Luke 9:18–26; Mark 10:17–31; Philippians 2:5–11; Galatians 6:7–10

DO / PRAY Make one measurable adjustment; optionally fast from a comfort and replace it with prayer or generosity.

MEMORY VERSE Luke 9:23

COMMENTARY

Leader reference: Luke 14:28–33

Luke 14:25–33 contains stark sayings about discipleship and two short examples about calculating costs. Jesus is not teaching hatred of family as a virtue; His hyperbolic comparison demands that allegiance to Him surpass every competing loyalty.

Luke 9:23 calls for daily self-denial and cross-bearing. The language of the cross should not be trivialized into ordinary inconveniences. Jesus invites followers to costly identification with Him, while His grace remains the basis of salvation.

Mark 10:17–22 demonstrates how possessions can reveal rival loyalties. Jesus' instruction addresses this man's particular bondage and challenges all readers to examine their own competing treasures. Philippians 2:5–8 presents Jesus' humility as the pattern for His people.

Teaching note: Avoid making this passage promise more than it says. Invite honest questions, attend to the context, and return the discussion to Jesus and the authority of Scripture.