

Counting the Costs Lesson

By Felicia Mollohan

Bible Reference: Luke 14:27-33

Lesson Objective: The children will learn that we need to count the costs before we decide to follow Jesus.

Target Age: 1st grade - 5th grade

Items Needed:

items for the store

labels or masking tape and marker to price the store items

play money

paper

pencils

colored pencils/markers

wrapping paper

tape

Welcome Activity:

Set up a store for the children to play when they arrive, making sure that the items are priced. As the children arrive, give them each an amount of money to spend at the store.

Bible Lesson Introduction:

"What did you have to do when you wanted to buy something?"

"What happened if you didn't have enough money?"

Bible Lesson:

Read through Luke 14:27-33 in your Bible, explaining as you read to make sure the children are understanding.

You could use the Counting the Costs: A Parable told by Jesus Skit to have the children involved in the telling of the story.

Jesus talks about how important it is to make sure that you count the costs before you start a project because what would happen if you start something, but didn't have enough to finish? Or how good would it be for a king to get into a war when he didn't have enough soldiers in order to win?

Bible Lesson Understanding:

Jesus wants us to make sure that we understand what it takes to follow Him. It takes all of us, not just part. He wants your all, everything about you, or He doesn't want you. What does that look like in our lives?

Bible Lesson Activity: Gifts for Jesus

Give each child a piece of paper and pencil. Have them write, or draw, everything that they can think of about themselves: hair color, eye color, abilities, clothes, toys, etc.

After they have made their list, have them draw a picture of themselves.

Discuss with the children about what they put on their lists. They can give all of that to Jesus.

Help the children wrap their lists as a gift to Jesus.

Bible Verse:

Luke 14:27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Bible Verse Activity: Hand Motions

"Whoever" - shrug shoulders

"does not" - shake head as if saying "no"

"carry his own cross" - act like carry something heavy

"and come after Me" - march in place

"cannot be My disciple" - shake head as if saying "no"

"Luke 14" - put 1 finger on left hand and 4 fingers on right hand

"27" - put up 2 fingers and then 7 fingers

Evaluation:

Everything they are, can do, or have, belongs to Jesus. Giving their lives to Jesus is a huge decision that they shouldn't take lightly.



Counting the Costs

Booklet from:
Luke 14:27-33

By Felicia Mollohan

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.



Counting the costs

Reader from:
Luke 14:27-33

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Who-ever does not¹

car-ry his own

cross and come af-

ter Me can-not be

My dis-ci-ple.

2

For which one of
you, when he wants
to build a tow-er,
does not first sit
down and
cal-cu-late the cost
to see if he has
e-nough to
com-plete it?

3

Oth-er-wise, when
he has laid a
foun-da-tion and is
not a-ble to fin-ish,
all who ob-serve it
be-gin to rid-i-cule
him, say-ing, 'This
man be-gan to build
and was not a-ble
to fin-ish.'

⁴Or what king, when he
sets out to meet
a-noth-er king in
bat-tle, will not first
sit down and
con-si-der
whe-ther he is
strong e-nough with
ten thou-sand men
to en-count-er the
one com-ing
a-gainst him with
twent-y thou-sand?

Or else, while the
oth-er is still far
a-way, he sends a
del-e-ga-tion and
asks for terms of
peace. So then, none
of you can be My
dis-ci-ple who does
not give up all his
own pos-ses-sions.

Counting the Costs Skit

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This skit is written directly from Luke 14:27-33. This is a two-part story that Jesus tells. The first part is about a man building a tower and how he needs to calculate the costs. The second part is about a king who needs to consider if he has enough to win the battle.

Characters:

Jesus

Tower Builder

Crowd

King

Jesus: Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

(enter Tower Builder who acts as Jesus speaks)

Jesus: For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him.

Crowd: This man began to build and was not able to finish.

(exit Tower Builder and Crowd) (enter King who acts as Jesus speaks)

Jesus: Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.

(exit King)

Jesus: So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.