

# 06 WHAT IT COSTS

**KEY TEXT:** MARK 8:27-37; 9:2-10

## CENTRAL truth

The disciples didn't mind following Jesus if it meant power, prestige, and honor, but they didn't like the idea of Jesus being beaten and killed—or the idea that it might mean suffering themselves. But **following Jesus is a costly privilege**. It means putting aside our own wants and desires and training ourselves to do what He says, even when it costs us. One day, the payoff will be amazing!

## key question

**Why is it so important for us to go to God for direction instead of relying on our own assumptions and perspectives?**

God deserves to be praised and worshiped for His holiness and divine perfection. Because He is wise, all-knowing, and all-powerful, He knows the best way for us to go. Our intentions may be good, but we don't know everything. Our perspective is skewed, and we tend to be selfish. The only way to make sure we are doing the right thing is to let God tell us what that is.

## keep in mind

- Tolerance is a big buzzword these days. Popular culture tells us to be accepting of everyone's opinion and way of doing things. Students might resist the idea that trying to do things their own way is serving Satan instead of God, especially if their intentions are "good." Point out that God wants to be honored and that Satan doesn't want Him to be honored. When we obey God, we honor Him. When we don't obey, we dishonor Him and help Satan. It's that simple.
- The phrase "my cross to bear" suggests that taking up our cross means going through something difficult. Make sure students understand that a cross is an instrument of death, not simply endurance. To take up a cross is to remain conscious of the need to die to our own wants and desires, not just get through something. We take up our cross by putting aside our right to choose and living in obedience to God.

## application

**What are some things we can do to practice dying to ourselves and following Jesus more closely?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Following Jesus is a blessing, but it isn't just about fun and warm feelings. It's about servanthood and sacrifice. Students should expect to go through some tough stuff in this life for the sake of God's glory (see John 16:33). If they stand strong, they will be rewarded big time!

**FOR THE LEADER:** Make sure students understand that choosing Jesus is worth anything it costs. Share how following Jesus has both blessed and cost you. Tell them what future hope keeps you moving forward in obedience.

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