BEFORE WE BEGIN: What was your takeaway from this past Sunday’s sermon?

DOCTRINE: Christian Living - We believe the Holy Spirit works in every area of the believer’s life toward holiness. This lifelong maturing process called sanctification, includes obedience to the commands to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, to love others as ourselves, and to seek to lead the lost to salvation in Christ. The Holy Spirit works in our lives through personal regular prayer, the study of God’s Word, fasting, worship, ministry and the close fellowship, and wise counsel of other believers. We believe the goal of sanctification is to conform believers to the image of Christ producing Christian unity, good works, the fruit of the Spirit, and the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit. Mark 12:30; Romans 8:29; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 John 2:3-6 (West Side Articles of Faith)

ATTRIBUTE OF GOD/JESUS: God Is Longsuffering - It has been said that longsuffering means “suffering long.” That is a good answer, but a better definition is needed. The word longsuffering in the Bible is made up of two Greek words meaning “long” and “temper”; literally, “long-tempered.” To be longsuffering, then, is to have self-restraint when one is stirred to anger. A longsuffering person does not immediately retaliate or punish; rather, he has a “long fuse” and patiently forbears. Longsuffering is associated with mercy (1 Peter 3:20) and hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3). It does not surrender to circumstances or succumb to trial. (gotquestions.org)

DAY 1 Read Luke 14:25-35

1. As you read the passage, what jumped out?

2. Write down any questions or observations you may have and share them at the group discussion.

DAY 2 Read Luke 14:25-27

1. What do you think Jesus meant by “if anyone comes to me”?

2. How do you understand in the context of the passage the expression “does not hate”?

3. In light of Jesus’ work on the cross, what does it mean to carry our cross and follow Him?
DAY 3  Read Luke 14:28-33

1. In your daily life, what is the purpose of getting an estimate or making a budget?

2. What is Jesus’ challenge to His followers? How does that impact other’s perception of you and your faith?

3. Have you ever tackled a battle you are not ready for? What did you underestimate?

4. Clearly, Jesus is making a distinction between being saved by faith in Him and a discipleship life as we follow Him. Though salvation is free, what is the cost of discipleship?

5. What is Jesus asking for when He says: “those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples”?

DAY 4  Read Luke 14:34-35

1. What are the uses of salt?

2. If saltiness is the value of salt, then what is the value of salt without its saltiness?

3. How does the salt illustration apply to the cost of discipleship being discussed in this passage?

4. As you estimate the cost of discipleship, what specific steps should you take to respond to Jesus’ challenge to you as His disciple?

5. If you choose not to do anything, how is that interpreted in light of Jesus’ words: “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear”?