

WEEK NINE: BEFORE YOU SIGN UP

Hear the story. See the King. Answer the call. Luke 14:25-35

1. Have you counted the cost of following Jesus... or only the benefits? Where are you most tempted to want Jesus without surrender?
2. What rival loyalty is competing with Jesus for first place in your life? A relationship, comfort, control, approval, money, or something else?
3. Is there an area where you're struggling to obey Jesus, or have you decided He doesn't have the right to tell you what to do? What's the difference?
4. What part of your life still feels like "mine" instead of His? What would surrender look like there this week?

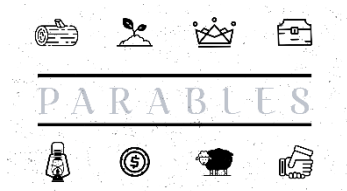
WEEKLY CALL

Identify one rival loyalty that's resisting the authority of Jesus.

Then ask... "What's the next clear act of obedience Jesus is asking from me?"



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PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK NINE: BEFORE YOU SIGN UP

Luke 14:25-35

Have you counted the cost of following Jesus... or only the benefits?

OPENING REFLECTION

This prayer guide invites you to examine your commitment to Jesus by identifying rival loyalties and surrendering them to His lordship. As you pray, remember that Jesus doesn't ask for surrender to earn salvation - He asks for surrender because He has already saved you through His death and resurrection.

SECTION 1: ADORATION – RECOGNIZING JESUS AS KING

Scripture Meditation

- Luke 14:27 - "Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."
- Romans 14:8-9 - "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living."

Guided Prayer Template

"Jesus, You are the crucified and risen King. You didn't ask me to follow You from a distance - You walked toward Your own cross. You gave everything for me, and You alone are worthy of my whole life. I worship You as Lord, not just Savior. Help me see You clearly today - not as an option among many, but as the King who has every right to claim everything I am and everything I have."

Adoration Prompts

- What aspect of Jesus' character most challenges your willingness to surrender?
- How does knowing Jesus went to the cross change your perspective on carrying yours?
- What would it mean to worship Jesus as both Savior and Lord in your daily life?



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 2: CONFESSION – IDENTIFYING RIVAL LOYALTIES

Scripture Meditation

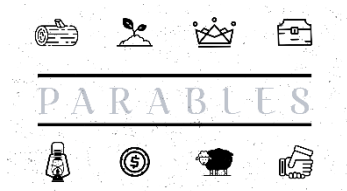
- Luke 14:33 - "Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples."
- 1 John 2:15-16 - "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world."
- Joshua 24:15 - "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Guided Prayer Template

"Lord, I confess that I have held tightly to parts of my life as though they belong only to me. I have said 'yes' to You in some areas while keeping other areas marked 'Mine.' Specifically, I confess my struggle with [name the rival loyalty]. I have allowed [approval/comfort/control/money/a relationship/a habit/a plan] to compete with my allegiance to You. I'm sorry. I repent of my divided heart. Forgive me for trying to follow You while resisting Your authority."

Confession Prompts

- What rival loyalty is resisting Jesus' authority in your life right now? (Examples: approval from others, personal comfort, control over your future, financial security, a relationship, a habit, a dream you've built your identity around)
- When did you first notice this competing loyalty? What made you hold onto it?
- How has this divided loyalty affected your discipleship? What has it cost you spiritually?
- What are you afraid will happen if you fully surrender this to Jesus?



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 3: THANKSGIVING – REMEMBERING THE GOSPEL

Scripture Meditation

- Philippians 2:6-8 - "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!"
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Guided Prayer Template

"Thank You, Jesus, for not standing at a safe distance from suffering. Thank You for walking toward the cross. Thank You for living the righteous life I failed to live. Thank You for obeying completely when I constantly rebel. Thank You for taking my guilt, bearing my judgment, and shedding Your blood in my place. Thank You for rising from the dead on the third day. Thank You for saving me when I could never save myself. Because of Your sacrifice, I am forgiven. Because of Your resurrection, I have new life. Thank You for the grace that saves me and now calls me to surrender."

Thanksgiving Prompts

- What specific aspect of Jesus' sacrifice means the most to you today?
- How has Jesus' willingness to give everything change your willingness to surrender?
- What spiritual benefits have you experienced because of your faith in Christ?



PRAYER GUIDE

SECTION 4: SUPPLICATION – REQUESTING GRACE FOR SURRENDER

Scripture Meditation

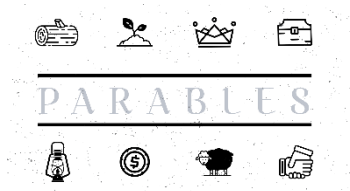
- Luke 14:28-30 - "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'"
- Philippians 4:13 - "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
- 2 Timothy 2:13 - "If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself."

Guided Prayer Template

"Father, I need Your grace. I cannot surrender enough to earn Your favor - I know that. But I also know that the grace that saved me calls me to a life of surrender. Help me count the cost of following Jesus - not to discourage me, but to prepare me. Show me clearly what You're asking me to lay down. Give me courage to obey, even when it's costly. I cannot do this in my own strength, but I trust that You will provide what I need. By Your Spirit, teach me to live as someone who belongs completely to Christ. And help me trust that whatever following Jesus costs, He is worth more."

Supplication Prompts

- What is the next clear act of obedience Jesus is asking from you? (Be specific. Not "be more holy" but "apologize to..." or "stop..." or "start...")
- What specific grace do you need to obey? (Courage? Wisdom? Strength? Freedom from fear?)
- Who could you ask to pray with you and hold you accountable as you take this step?
- What would change in your life if you fully obeyed Jesus in this area?



PRAYER GUIDE

CLOSING PRAYER

"Father, forgive us for the ways we try to follow Jesus while holding tightly to parts of our lives as though they belong only to us. Show us where what we love has gotten out of order. Show us where comfort or control has become more important than obedience.

Thank You for Jesus. Thank You for Your salvation. Give us grace to repent and believe. And by Your Spirit, teach us to live as people who belong to Christ.

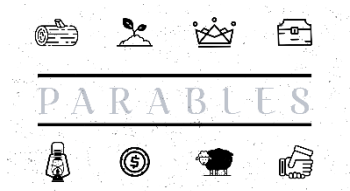
Show each of us where You're calling us to surrender. Give us courage to obey. And help us trust that whatever following Jesus costs... He is worth more.

We ask this in the precious name of Jesus... Amen."

JOURNALING PROMPTS

Spend 2-3 minutes reflecting on these questions in a journal:

1. What rival loyalty did God reveal to you during this prayer time?
2. What specific fear comes up when you think about fully surrendering this to Jesus?
3. What truth about Jesus helps you overcome that fear?
4. What is one concrete step you will take this week to obey Jesus in this area?
5. How might your life look different in three months if you remain faithful to this commitment?



PRAYER GUIDE

THIS WEEK'S "CALL"

1. Name it - Identify your rival loyalty (the area where you most want to say "Jesus... anything but that")
2. Ask it - Pray this simple question: "What's the next clear act of obedience Jesus is asking from me?"
3. Do it - Obey Him. Remember: surrender is one act of obedience at a time, followed by the next.

The power of discipleship isn't found in how impressive your sacrifice is. It's found in the One you're following. Jesus is worth more than whatever He asks you to lay down.

HEAR THE STORY.

SEE THE KING.

ANSWER THE CALL.

