



Ripple
Effect

MODULE 3 | **The Real Jesus**

Training Guide

Session 8

The costs and benefits of following Jesus

Key idea: *Jesus is the servant king who offers new life to everyone who follows him. Following Jesus also involves costly discipleship while we wait for him to return as king, saviour and judge.*

Key encouragement: *Following Jesus involves suffering before glory, but it is worth it.*

Practical challenge: *When inviting people to follow Jesus, and talking with people about Jesus, be honest with them about both the costs and the benefits.*

Session goals:

- *Discuss the costs and benefits of following Jesus while we wait for him to return.*
- *Pray for each other and each other's friends.*
- *Review RE3.*

Session Introduction

Watch the introduction video for Session 8.

Jesus is the servant king who offers true life to everyone who follows him. But following Jesus means costly discipleship while we wait for Jesus to return. We need to be open and honest with people about this. Following Jesus is wonderful, and the benefits far outweigh the costs, but the costs are real.

Share

Choose one of the following to share about.

- Share stories of evangelistic opportunities God gave you this week. These might be conversations you are grateful for or ones that didn't go as you hoped. They might be interesting conversations with potential or clear answers to our prayers.
- How did inviting someone to read Luke's Gospel with you go? Who will you see or speak with this week that you would also like to invite?

Pray

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Luke 24:45-49 (NIV)

- | Use this passage and the sharing time to guide your prayers for yourself, each other, and your friends.

Train***Luke's Gospel***

After Peter recognises that Jesus is God's promised king, Jesus teaches his disciples about what the future holds for Jesus and Jesus' followers.

1. Read Luke 9:18-27 and discuss the three questions:
 - a. Jesus: What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
 - b. People: What do we learn about the people who met Jesus?
 - c. Me: What is my response to Jesus and this story?
2. Review your discussion.
 - a. Think back to each of the three questions: Jesus. People. Me. What comments or additional questions helped keep discussion focused on Jesus, moving forward and going deeper?
 - b. What aspects of the passage would you like to have discussed, or to have discussed more fully, if you had your time again?

Skill: Recognising the costs of following Jesus

When inviting people to follow Jesus we need to be honest with them about both the costs and the benefits of being a Christian. The costs of following Jesus may not be the first thing we talk about, but they do need to be discussed.

1. Think of one of the people you are praying for.
 - a. What costs might they face if they become a Christian?
 - b. When and how could you talk with them about the costs of following Jesus?
2. What encourages you to keep following Jesus when it feels costly?
3. In Ripple Effect we focus on the joy and privilege of evangelism, but it can also be costly.
 - a. When does evangelism feel costly?
 - b. What encourages you to persevere with evangelism when you feel the costs?

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