

I Dare You

Module: Connected

Lesson 4: Disconnect to Reconnect

Objectives:

Students will

- Learn that there's a difference between someone who believes and someone who is a disciple
- Consider the cost of discipleship, and be encouraged to take up the challenge

Materials Needed

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Story of the Bayview Ghost¹
- ☐ Clip from Forrest Gump - Start at 1:52:00, End at 1:58:45
- ☐ Youtube parody of Forrest Gump²

1 http://www.toronto.ca/archives/current_bayview_ghost.htm

2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOvgJ0TxdFI>

Minds On

Share the story of the Bayview Ghost.

Say something like: We are, in many ways, trained by our society to not count the cost of anything.

Credit cards and refund policies allow us to be impulsive and not pay the consequences for our actions.

We think that we can do whatever we want and it won't matter. But it does. Just like in the story of the Bayview Ghost, not counting the cost before acting on it can be disastrous and according to Jesus, kind of stupid.

Action

Read Luke 14:28-32.

Ask students to share a story when they've made a decision or a choice without counting the cost. (You may want to have an example to get the discussion going.)

Show the clip from Forrest Gump or the Youtube parody version (Forrest decides to run and people start following him without knowing why.)

Or,

Have pictures of different fads such as: the ipod, crocs and tamagotchis. Explain what the term bandwagon means (wikipedia) and where it came from.

In either case, the point of this activity is to have students realize that people follow people or fads without even really knowing the reasons behind it. This will set up the group for the next section in which Jesus addresses the large crowds of people who follow him for the wrong reasons.

Read Luke 14:25-27 and have students answer these questions:

- Why does Jesus tell these two stories? (Large crowds were following him to Jerusalem.)
- What was Jesus going to do in Jerusalem? (Die on the cross. Just as people were following Forrest Gump without knowing why, this crowd of people did not really know why they were

following Jesus. Maybe they were following him because of his miracles, or maybe they've heard that he gives out free food.)

- Does Jesus want us to hate our Family? (No, the word hate can be translated to detachment. Jesus wants us to detach ourselves from any attachments that come before Jesus in this world such families, wealth, or even ourselves, and instead attach ourselves to him.)

Say something like: It is only by letting go of (disconnecting from) our attachments in this world, can we reattach (reconnect) to Jesus. It's all about our priorities and the thing that we put first in our lives. Jesus wants us to put him before anyone else. Yes even before our own lives.

Ask

- What does “carrying the cross” mean to you?
- Why would anyone carry the cross in New Testament times? (It was a tool of execution.)
- What would be the modern day equivalent? (Electric chair or gas chamber.)

Say something like: When Jesus says carry the cross and follow me, he’s saying that we need to die to ourselves and follow him. He is not referring to some sin or problem in your life.

Ask students what the difference is between a believer and a disciple. Have them read James 2:19. (You want them to realize that even demons believe in Jesus. Help them see that being a disciple of Jesus is more than just believing in him. It is only by putting him first in our lives that we can be his disciples.)

Consolidate/Debrief

Read or have this quote on the board:

It is one of the supreme handicaps of the church that in it there are so many distant followers of Jesus and so few real disciples.³

Ask

- How many of you are just following Jesus at a distance? (Like those following Forrest Gump. Jesus is calling all of us to become his disciples and not just his followers.)

3 William Barclay, The Gospel of Luke (Louisville, Kentucky: Saint Andrew's Press, 2001) 233.

- What's the cost of being a disciple? (Everything)
- Is there anything in your life right now that you put before God? Will you be able to let go it and put Jesus first?
- Will you count the cost of following him?

Optional: Hand out a blank piece of paper to each student. Have students draw a chair with a circle around it (4 Spiritual Laws diagram⁴). Ask them to list all the different priorities in their lives in the circle such as school, family, God, etc. Once they have done this, ask them to prioritise their list from the most important to the least important. Have them write down their most important priority on the chair. Explain to them that the chair represents the throne in their lives and that to be his disciples, we need Jesus to occupy that space.

Ask students to find a quiet place where they can reflect on Luke 14:25-32 and to spend some time praying whichever God leads them.

4 <http://www.campuscrusade.com/fourlawseng.htm>