

Island Group Discussion Guide



Abide → Connect → Invest → Go

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2026

WHAT A DISCIPLE DOES - WEEK 8

COMMIT • LUKE 9:57-62



OPENING PRAYER TIME

Begin your meeting with 10-15 minutes of prayer using these prompts:

- Thank God for His presence with us today and for His faithfulness throughout this series
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our discussion and open our hearts to His truth
- Pray for honest hearts willing to examine the depth of our commitment to Jesus
- Invite Jesus to reveal any areas where we are holding back from Him
- Ask for courage to move from involvement to true commitment
- Pray for our church to be a community of authentic, Christ-centered commitment

DISCUSSION

- **Ice breaker:** Have you ever signed up enthusiastically for something – a gym membership, a class, a volunteer role – only to lose steam after a few weeks? What happened?
- Over the past eight weeks, we've walked through the discipleship flywheel: **Abide, Connect, Invest, and Go.** Which of these four values has challenged you most during this series, and why?
- **Read Luke 9:57-62.** What is your initial reaction to how Jesus responds to these three people who say they want to follow Him?
- In the sermon, Pastor Paul described involvement this way: *"you stay with something as long as you are getting something out of it, as long as you are happy with it."* He said, *"you are only involved until something goes wrong"* – until someone says something you don't like or steps on your toes. How have you seen this play out – in yourself or in others?
- The first person in **Luke 9:57** made a showy commitment – *"I will follow you wherever you go"* – without counting the cost. Why is enthusiasm without counting the cost dangerous for our spiritual lives?
- The second person in **Luke 9:59-60** made a shallow commitment – *"Lord, let me first go and bury my father."* The message pointed out that *"it's a dangerous thing to give your family status over God"* because *"the Bible describes Him as both desiring and demanding first place in your life."* How do we love our families well while still keeping God first?
- The third person in **Luke 9:61** represents non-commitment – *"I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say my farewells."* In the sermon, this was described as really saying: *"I'll go back, and if I can't find anything else to do... then I'll go."* Where might you be giving Jesus a "maybe" instead of a "yes"?



- **Read Luke 9:23.** Jesus says, *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* We heard that this verse *"should be the life verse of any follower of Jesus Christ"* and any church. How does this verse challenge your current walk with Jesus?
- The first mark of authentic commitment is **forsaking self**. Pastor Paul reminded us that *"we've been raised in a culture where we're taught you gotta look out for yourself... every man for himself."* But Jesus teaches the opposite. **Application question:** What does "denying yourself" look like practically in your daily life?
- **Read Philippians 2:3-4.** How does this passage connect to forsaking self? Where do you struggle most with putting others' interests ahead of your own?
- The second mark is being **spiritually focused** – taking up your cross daily. The sermon challenged us to stop being lukewarm: *"You're either gonna be a hot cup of coffee for Jesus on a cold winter morning or a cool drink on a hot summer day. Something that is satisfying to the Lord."* **Application question:** Would you describe your spiritual life right now as hot, cold, or lukewarm? What needs to change?
- **Read Romans 12:1-2.** We heard that laying down our lives means offering ourselves *"as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing unto God"* – not conforming to the world's patterns but being transformed. What does it look like to offer your daily life as a living sacrifice?
- The third mark is **following the Savior**. Pastor Paul was clear: *"Following Jesus, according to Jesus, is an all or nothing proposition"* and *"Jesus is not a genie in a bottle."* How does this challenge the way our culture sometimes views the Christian faith?
- Pastor Paul made a powerful comparison: *"How many of you would accept 80% faithfulness in your marriage?"* Since the church is the bride of Christ, why do we sometimes give Jesus less faithfulness than we expect from our spouse?
- **Read John 15:13.** Jesus demonstrated authentic commitment on the cross. We heard that in His mind, Jesus was saying: *"I will see it through, no matter the pain. I will see it through, no matter the cost."* How does the cross set the standard for what commitment really looks like?
- The sermon included this prayer from a seminary professor: *"Lord, exhaust me how you choose."* **Application question:** Are you willing to pray that prayer? What would it mean for your life if you truly meant it?
- **Application question:** As we close this series, we've been challenged that *"you're never standing still with God — you're either getting closer or you're getting further away."* What is one specific step you will take this week to move from involvement to authentic commitment?

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Share prayer requests and concerns with the group. Be sure to write these down and send them to all group members so everyone can pray throughout the week, including those who were absent today.