



## SERMON GROUP LINK

**GALAN HUGHES | "PARABLE OF THE TOWER BUILDER"**

*Harris Creek Baptist Church*

*July 6, 2014*

## LIFE GROUP LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

*In preparation for group discussion, take a few minutes to read through the instructions to the right.*

## PASSAGES TO STUDY

**SERMON TEXT:**

*Luke 14:25-35*

**OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

*Luke 9:23-26, 57-62; Matthew 5:13; Deuteronomy 33:9*

## BEFORE LIFE GROUP

1. Spend time in prayer and studying the passage.
2. Listen to the sermon and take notes. Write down questions you had while listening to the sermon.
3. Read through all of the material.
4. Write down two or three ways to apply the passage to your daily life.

## DURING LIFE GROUP

1. Summarize the sermon in your own words. Ask other group members to do the same.
2. Ask someone to read the text for the group.
3. Lead your group through the discussion questions, asking the ones that are relevant to your group. Supplement some of the discussion with your own thoughts and follow-up questions.
4. Share how you might be able to apply the sermon to your everyday life.
5. Close with a time of prayer, asking God to increase the depth of our relationship with Him and our obedience to what we learned.

## SERMON RECAP

At the end of Luke 14, we find a bold lesson on discipleship coming from Jesus, including a curious parable about a tower builder. If someone were going to build a tower, the project would surely begin with an initial assessment of cost to make certain the task could be completed. Speaking to a large crowd of curious observers, Jesus offered words of instruction about the cost of being a disciple, a devoted follower. From the parable (and the surrounding passages), we are reminded of God's devotion to finish what He started no matter the cost, but we are also invited to consider our own involvement in the grandest building project: the restoration/redemption of creation. The choice is up to us: Will we decide to trust the Lord daily and submit ourselves to be fully devoted to God?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. While some of the surrounding verses may have been more familiar (ex. "Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" or "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?"), what was your prior exposure to the Parable of the Tower Builder?
2. What does this passage indicate about the character of God? Do you think God would ever start something He could not finish?
3. What comes to mind when you consider the word "surrender"? Defeat or victory? Loss or gain? What does Jesus seem to be saying about surrender and submission in the kingdom of God?
4. According to Adele Calhoun, "Sometimes submission means giving. Sometimes it means receiving. Sometimes submission means leading and at other times it means following. But in each case there is an element of self-giving." When has someone demonstrated submission for you? How could you practice submission within your own spheres of influence?
5. In verse 34, Jesus mentions how salt no longer serves its original purpose if it loses its saltiness and a neglected purpose cannot be restored. If this analogy is speaking to discipleship, what attributes are required of someone wanting to serve their purpose as a follower of Jesus?
6. How could discipleship become more diligent in your life currently? How can discipleship be a shared practice within and outside of your Life Group? (Think about one person that could benefit from your support in discipleship, and consider one person that could support you.)
7. What did you take away from this weekend's message? How do you feel led to respond?