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## L. UNDERSTANDING THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

What has been your experience in encountering Jesus? What has he invited you to do?

L.13 I know what it means to follow Jesus.

Matthew 4:19, Luke 9:23

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**A STORY** A German theologian was asked about the story of Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. After much persecution for his faith he wrote a book called *The cost of discipleship*. He later was killed by the Nazi Germans for his stand against the fascist regime and his commitment to follow Christ. It has cost many their lives in the commitment to follow Jesus. This phenomenon is present to this day. It is imperative to determine what a person wants to do about this decision. Take a look at the words of Jesus and the commitment he asks.

### **DIGGING INTO THE BIBLE**

Matthew 4:19

*<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.*

**Luke 9:23**

*<sup>23</sup>Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

### **DISCUSSION AND DISCOVERY**

1. Where was Jesus walking?

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2. Who did he ask to follow him? What was their career?

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3. What does this statement “Come, follow me” imply?

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4. What did he promise he would do if they did so?

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5. What do you think are the implications of their decision?

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6. How is fishing for men an appropriate metaphor?

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7. In Luke 9:23 what are the requirements?

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8. What does this tell you are the implications of following Jesus?

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**APPLICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

9. What do you think it will cost you to follow Jesus?

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10. What are the barriers of making that decision?

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11. What are the implications of not making that decision?

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12. What steps can you take to carry out that decision?

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**DIGGING IN DEEPER**

1. What is the most important part of this lesson to you? Explain.

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2. How do you see applying aspects of this lesson to your life?

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3. When do you feel would be the best time to make that application?

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4. What do you hear the Lord speaking to you about this right now?

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