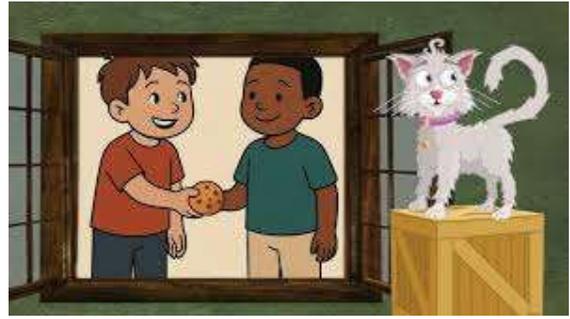




ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
AUGUST 31ST 2025 PEBBLES
Based on Luke 14:25-33



International Children's Bible

You Must First Plan

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. He turned and said to them, ²⁶ "If anyone comes to me but loves his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters more than he loves me, then he cannot be my follower. A person must love me more than he loves himself! ²⁷ If anyone is not willing to die on a cross when he follows me, then he cannot be my follower. ²⁸ If you wanted to build a tower, you would first sit down and decide how much it would cost. You must see if you have enough money to finish the job. ²⁹ If you don't do that, you might begin the work, but you would not be able to finish. And if you could not finish it, then all who would see it would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, 'This man began to build but was not able to finish!'

³¹ "If a king is going to fight against another king, first he will sit down and plan. If the king has only 10,000 men, he will plan to see if he is able to defeat the other king who has 20,000 men. ³² If he cannot defeat the other king, then he will send some men to speak to the other king and ask for peace. ³³ In the same way, you must give up everything you have to follow me. If you don't, you cannot be my follower!"

Before we begin for this week, I hope you had a lot of fun with the balloons last week!

Last weekend John and I went up to the Central Coast to see our daughter and grandchildren. On Saturday we went to the local shopping centre and I gave our 12 year old grandson some money to spend on anything he liked – except he couldn't buy anything that would cause harm to somebody, food, or come back and ask for more money. He had to think carefully about the cost of the things he thought he'd spend his money on.

I did say to him that he didn't have to spend the money at all he could put it towards something that he really, really wanted. I also reminded him that the cost of something doesn't always have to do money. If you wanted to be a really great footy or cricket player, or great at dancing then you have to give up some time to practice – the cost to be great is your time. So, instead of spending your free time on a device you practice what you love to do playing with the ball or dancing and working hard to get good at it.

To think about cost a little bit more, let's really break down the costs of something that could be wonderful, but we'd really need to think about the 'cost' of it first. Let's say you really wanted to have a pet, a cat, or a dog or even a chirpy little bird like a canary. But pets cost money. First of all, you would have to buy your pet – would you be willing to give up your pocket money for a pet? Would you be willing to do jobs around the house to help buy the food, pay for the vet, or maybe the local pet groomer? It costs a lot of time to care for your pet especially if you need to take it for walks each day so it doesn't get bored.

Owning a pet we love can be wonderful, but it comes at a cost of money, time, effort, and sometimes even sacrificing what we want to make sure our pet is safe and cared for.

Jesus talks about something even much more wonderful and amazing that also has a cost. He told his friends, the disciples, that if they wanted to follow Him, they'd need to think about the cost (Luke 14:25-

33) but before we think about the cost, let's start with the reasons someone would want to be Jesus' disciples.

What do you think would be wonderful about being Jesus' follower?

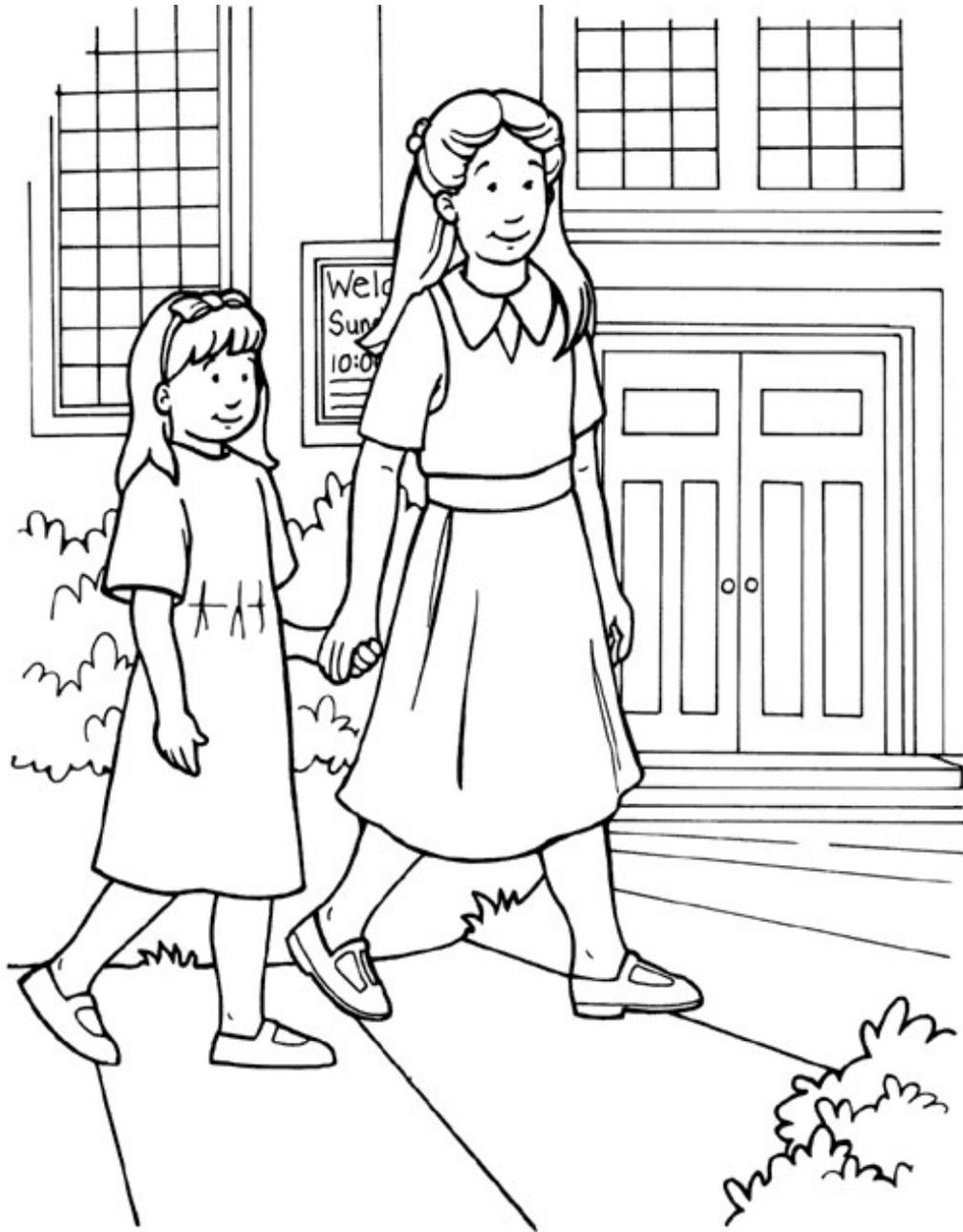
Following Jesus' is an important and special job, but Jesus said there's also a cost to think about. He said his disciples would have to make him most important in their lives, even more important than family and friends. He also said people might make fun of them or hurt them for being his followers. Being a follower of Jesus isn't always easy, but it's always the very best thing we can choose for ourselves. He just wants us to know there's a cost to living a life as Jesus' follower, and that's part of the love that Jesus shares with us.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, it's easy to say that we want to follow Jesus, but it isn't always easy to do. Help us to follow him, whatever the cost. In Jesus' name amen.

The Parable of Counting The Cost

Luke 14:25-33





I will follow Jesus, God's Son.

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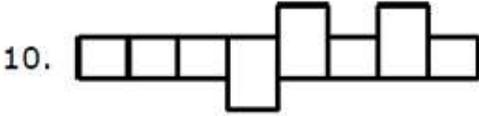
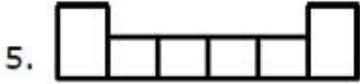
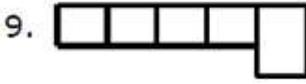
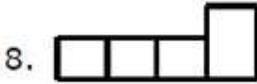
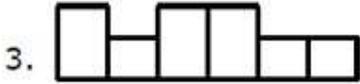
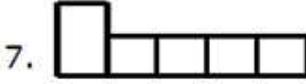
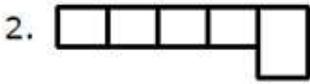
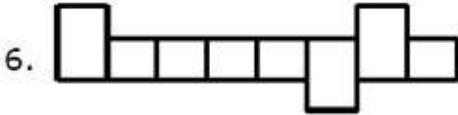
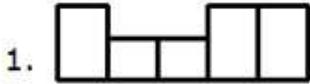
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The Cost of Discipleship



And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



tower	follow	finish	carry	cross
build	disciple	complete	cost	money

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iR-tHp3bP8M&list=RDiR-tHp3bP8M&start_radio=1

Something a little different this week!!

