SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 14

Come, for Everything Is Ready

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 14

Jesus sat at a table full of men watching Him and men grabbing for the best seats, and He showed them a better way. This week He invites you to take the lowest seat, to make room for people who can never pay you back, to drop your excuses, and to count the cost of following Him all the way.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Watched Closely

READ · LUKE 14:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where is Jesus, who is watching Him, who is in front of Him, and what does He do (14:1–4)?

REFLECT

"They were watching Him closely" (14:1), and He healed the man anyway. When have you held back from doing the right thing because of who was watching or what they might say?

REFLECT

Jesus asks, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out?" (14:5). Who in your life is "in the well" right now, and what is keeping you from reaching for him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one good thing today for someone who needs it, even if someone might criticize you or misunderstand why.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 14:27)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Last Place

READ · LUKE 14:7–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were the guests doing when Jesus noticed them, and whom does He tell the host to invite instead of friends and rich neighbors (14:7, 12–13)?

REFLECT

Where do you scramble for "the places of honor" (14:7) — wanting to be first, noticed, respected, right? What does that scramble cost you and the people around you?

REFLECT

Jesus says to invite those who "do not have the means to repay you" (14:14). Who is one man you know who could never pay you back, and what would it look like to make room for him?

RESPOND — TODAY

Invite someone this week who can do nothing for you — to a meal, a coffee, a meeting or a ride — and do not tell anyone you did it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 14:27)

DAY 3 OF 5

No More Excuses

READ · LUKE 14:15–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the man's slave say to the invited guests, and what three excuses do they give (14:17–20)?

REFLECT

The invitation was "Come; for everything is ready now" (14:17). What has God already made ready for you that you keep putting off coming to?

REFLECT

A field, some oxen, a new wife (14:18–20) — none of them bad things. What good thing in your life has become your excuse for saying "not now" to God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write your own excuse down in one honest sentence, then cross it out and write next to it: "Everything is ready now. I'm coming."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 14:27)

DAY 4 OF 5

Still There Is Room

READ · LUKE 14:21–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who does the master send for after the invited guests refuse, and what does the slave report when that is done (14:21–22)?

REFLECT

The master brings in “the poor and crippled and blind and lame” (14:21). How does it feel to know that the people the world passes over are exactly the ones God fills His table with?

REFLECT

“Still there is room” (14:22). Who do you know on the “highways and along the hedges” (14:23) who needs someone to urge him, with love, to come in?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray by name for one man who is far from God, and then reach out to him today with a simple, warm invitation.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 14:27)

DAY 5 OF 5

Count the Cost

READ · LUKE 14:25–35

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things does Jesus say a man must do or he "cannot be My disciple," and what two men does He say sit down first to count (14:26–28, 31, 33)?

REFLECT

Jesus says His disciple must love Him more than father, mother, wife, children — "yes, and even his own life" (14:26). What person or thing are you most tempted to put ahead of Jesus?

REFLECT

The builder sat down and figured whether he could finish (14:28–30). Have you ever started following Jesus and stalled out? What did you not count on, and what would it take to finish?

RESPOND — TODAY

Sit down tonight with a pen and list what following Jesus is costing you and what refusing Him would cost you, then pray over both lists.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 14:27)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Jesus noticed the guests grabbing the best seats (14:7). How do we compete for honor with each other, even in a group like this one, and how can we stop?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The master's house was filled with the poor, crippled, blind and lame (14:21). Who is missing from our table, and what would it take to bring them in?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Jesus compared a disciple who quits to salt that has lost its taste (14:34–35). What helps each of us keep our "salt" when following Jesus gets costly?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You made everything ready and still there is room for me, so today I lay down my excuses and ask You to...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 14:27

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."