

A LUKAN DISCIPLESHIP FIVE-DAY **BOOT CAMP

A 5-DAY DAILY REFLECTION JOURNAL & REFERENCE GUIDE

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LUKE

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Welcome to the **Lukan Discipleship Boot Camp**. This is a no-nonsense, 5-day intensive designed to challenge “*comfortable Christianity*” and build up the “*radical discipleship*” mindset demanded by Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. This workbook contains both your daily biblical references and your morning action journals.

****Boot Camp:** Originally meaning military basic training, the term now, for us in discipleship training, describes an enhanced deep spiritual thinking and intensive inner-honesty discipleship program with Scripture education and real-life practice exercises

Jesus, in His discipleship challenges in Luke’s Gospel, enjoins **Five Strong Demands** of his followers. In this **5-Day Discipleship Boot Camp** challenge, we are centering our discussion around **Five Probing Personal Questions** to which we are to respond.

THE FIVE-DAY DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE ✦ 5 PROBING PERSONAL QUESTIONS	
THE CHALLENGE	THE QUESTION
 DAY 1: THE LOYALTY SHIFT	✦ When loyalties compete, who has the final authority—Him or my loyalty?
 DAY 2: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY	✦ What comfort will I surrender?
 DAY 3: GIVE UP ALL	✦ What resources will I place at Christ’s disposal?
 DAY 4: ABOLISH EXCUSES	✦ What obedience will I stop postponing?
 DAY 5: THE FORWARD-LOOK FOCUS	✦ What commitment will I refuse to abandon?

DAY 1: THE LOYALTY SHIFT

When loyalties compete, who has the final, supreme loyalty claim on my life?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS (KJV):

Luke 14:26 — “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”

THE DEFINITION:

Loyalty is steadfast devotion and faithfulness to a person or commitment that governs the choices we make when competing claims arise.

Loyalty to Christ means that my supreme loyalty belongs to Jesus Christ. **That loyalty governs and regulates my life.** All secondary loyalties—to family, friends, work, church, community, culture, country, and even myself—must come under my supreme loyalty to Christ.

A REAL-LIFE EXAMPLE FROM WORLD HISTORY (Here’s what Dietrich Bonhoeffer, an important voice in modern Christian discipleship, faced.)

In Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler demanded extraordinary personal loyalty, while the Nazi movement sought to bring even the German church under its ideology. Dietrich Bonhoeffer refused to allow loyalty to Hitler, nation, personal safety—or even the institutional church—to supersede his supreme loyalty to Jesus Christ. That loyalty eventually cost him his freedom and, ultimately, his life.

THE REAL-LIFE SITUATION: (Here’s what I’m facing.)

Bonhoeffer faced an extreme test of loyalty. But every disciple faces competing loyalties wherever life places us—at home, on the job, in business, in our community, in our church, in our culture, in our love of country, and even in our own personal desires.

The question is not whether we will have other demands for loyalty. The question is:
When loyalties clash, who has the final, supreme loyalty claim on my life?

MY FIRST — UNFILTERED MINDSET: (Here’s my immediate reaction.)

“So many things in my life demand my loyalty: my family, my culture, my community, my love of country, pursuing my meaningful goals, and MY life. Surely Jesus is not requiring that they all be secondary and beneath Him.”

MY TRANSFORMED, RADICAL FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MINDSET: (Here’s how I rethink and respond as a disciple of Jesus.)

“Yes, I can deeply love my family, faithfully serve others, value my work, appreciate my culture, love my country, and pursue meaningful goals. But none of them has the final claim on my life. My supreme loyalty belongs to Jesus Christ. When another loyalty conflicts with following Him, I choose Christ.”

Yes—these things are sometimes asking for complete loyalty, but they remain secondary loyalties. Jesus is to have the supreme loyalty; first place in all things. Paul also echoes this truth in Colossians 1:18, KJV “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the **** preeminence.**” NIV, “so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”

****The meaning of "preeminence" in Colossians 1:18**, means holding first place, supreme rank, and ultimate authority above everything else. It’s to hold the highest rank in a group, be first, have first place, be first, occupy the foremost place. The original Greek word is *proteuo*, (pro-**TOO**-oh), Strong’s Number **4009**, which means to be first in importance, order, and influence. Paul uses this word to show that Jesus Christ is supreme over creation, the church, and of course our lives — “**in every way,**” “**in all spheres**” “**every facet**” of our lives.

By the way, the force of the NT Greek grammar here emphasizes this: “**He Himself,**” “**He and no other**” is to be supreme. Christ earned the **Title of Honor: “The Preeminent One”** after His mighty resurrection from the dead. (Col 1:18)

DAILY JOURNAL: MORNING LOCK-IN ACTION PLAN

MORNING "LOCK-IN" ACTION PLAN

"Discipleship in Luke is not a theory; it is a lifestyle lived out in the open."

1. The Command Today: Hate Family/Self

2. The "Live-Out" Objective:

Where are competing loyalties challenging my supreme loyalty to Christ? What specific choice can I make today that demonstrates that Christ has the final claim on my life?

3. My Action:

Ask yourself this question: Is my thinking still a bit resistant to Jesus' radical demands of discipleship in Luke 14:26?

DAY 2: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS DAILY

Where is following Jesus costing me something—and will I keep following Him?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS:

Luke 9:23 — And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. “Come after Me” = “be My disciple.” The NT Greek phrase translated “daily” in the KJV more literally means “every day” or “each day.” So, “Let an individual follower take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

THE DEFINITION:

By saying, “Take up your cross,” Jesus calls believers (disciples) to “Take up your cross EACH DAY.” Bible expositor Alexander Bruce calls this “cross-bearing as the law of discipleship.” Bruce goes on to interestingly say that Luke is “directing attention to the commonplace trials of ordinary Christian life.”

THE REAL-LIFE SITUATION: (Here's what I'm facing.)

A Christian realizes that openly living according to his commitment to Christ is beginning to cost him and give him or her a cross to bear. Friends who once included him now leave him out of certain gatherings. Some make jokes about how “religious” he has become. At work, he refuses to participate in something he believes is dishonest, even though going along would make his life easier and might help his career. Nothing dramatic happens. There is no applause. However, tomorrow he will face another criticism or even the same bout as usual.

But each day he makes the same decision: **I will follow Jesus even when following Him costs me something.**

MY FIRST, UNFILTERED MINDSET: (Here's my immediate reaction.).

“Why make life harder for myself? I can believe in Jesus without taking everything so seriously.”

MY RADICAL FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MINDSET: (Here's how I rethink and respond as a disciple of Jesus.)

“Jesus never promised that following Him would always be comfortable or popular. If obedience brings sacrifice, rejection, or hardship, I will still follow Him” and enjoy my life with Him and with the people of God who surround me and encourage me — daily.

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1. The Command Today: Take Up Your Cross

2. The "Live-Out" Objective:

Where is following Jesus costing me something today? What specific act of obedience will I choose even though it may bring sacrifice, rejection, hardship, or discomfort?

3. My Action:

Ask yourself this question: Is my thinking still a bit resistant to Jesus' radical demands of discipleship in Luke 9:23?

DAY 3: GIVE UP ALL

What resources will I place at Christ's disposal?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS (KJV):

Luke 14:33 - "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

THE DEFINITION:

"Give Up All" means recognizing that everything I possess ultimately belongs to God. My money, possessions, abilities, time, and other resources are available for His purposes—not merely my own comfort and security.

THE REAL-LIFE SITUATION: (Here's what I'm facing.)

As believers mature in their walk with Christ they begin to realize that following Jesus is changing the way they think about what they used to comfortably call "**mine**." There is money earned through work, abilities developed, possessions gained and enjoyed, and of course "my" precious time that I carefully protect.

Then comes the challenge of being willing to give it all up for kingdom work as opportunities arise: a ministry needs financial support; someone could benefit from an ability possessed; a fellow believer needs time for counsel and encouragement; a Christian training opportunity could prepare her for greater service. The question begins to change from: "What do I want to do with what I have?" to: "Lord, how do You want me to use what You have entrusted to me?" It all (everything — in every area of my life) belongs to **YOU**.

MY FIRST, UNFILTERED MINDSET: (Here's my immediate reaction.)

"God, I earned it. I worked for it. It's mine. I should be able to decide what "I" want to do with it."

MY RADICAL FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MINDSET: (Here's how I rethink and respond as a disciple of Jesus.)

"Everything I have is ultimately God's. I am God's ** steward, not the absolute owner. My money, possessions, abilities, and time are available for Christ's purposes."

** **Steward:** A person who manages, looks after, or protects something: such as property, money, land, or other resources—on behalf of another person. For the believer this means: "I have these possessions and abilities as God's representative on Earth and use them for the benefit of the Lord's work and the Lord's people."

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MORNING "LOCK-IN" ACTION PLAN

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1. The Command Today: Give Up All

2. The "Live-Out" Objective:

What resource has God entrusted to me that I can place at Christ's disposal today? Identify specifically what I will offer—my time, money, possessions, abilities, or other resources—and how I will use it.

3. My Action:

Ask yourself this question: Is my thinking still a bit resistant to Jesus' radical demands of discipleship in Luke 14:33?

DAY 4: ABOLISH EXCUSES

What Obedience from Christ will I stop postponing?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS (KJV):

Luke 9:59-60 - "Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God."

THE DEFINITION:

"Abolish Excuses" means refusing to postpone obedience to Christ until circumstances become more convenient. When Jesus calls, discipleship does not continually answer, "Later."

THE REAL-LIFE SITUATION: (Here's what I'm facing.)

For some time now, you have sensed that Christ is calling you to take a specific step of obedience. Perhaps it means becoming more actively involved in Christian service, enrolling in Bible or ministry training, mentoring a younger believer, joining a ministry team, using an ability God has given you, or taking some other step you know you should take. **But you keep postponing it.**

MY FIRST, UNFILTERED MINDSET: (Here's my immediate reaction.)

"I'll do that when things settle down. I just don't have enough time right now."

MY RADICAL FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MINDSET: (Here's how I rethink and respond as a disciple of Jesus.)

"If Christ is calling me to act, I cannot keep turning 'not now' into a permanent answer of disobedience." Today you take **one concrete step**: make the call, register for the training, contact the ministry leader, schedule the meeting, or begin serving.

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1. The Command Today: Abolish Excuses

2. The "Live-Out" Objective:

What act of obedience to Christ have I been postponing? Identify one concrete step I will take today instead of continuing to say, "Later."

3. My Action:

Ask yourself this question: Is my thinking still a bit resistant to Jesus' radical demands of discipleship in Luke 9:59-60?

DAY 5: THE FORWARD-LOOK FOCUS

Where am I tempted to turn back from a commitment I have made to following Jesus?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS (KJV):

Luke 9:61-62 - "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

THE DEFINITION:

"Forward-Look" means following Jesus with settled commitment rather than continually looking back toward the life, priorities, comforts, or attachments from which He has called us.

THE REAL-LIFE SITUATION: (Here's what I'm facing.)

You have made a serious commitment to grow as a disciple—perhaps regular Bible study, Christian training, serving in ministry, discipling another believer, or becoming more involved in the mission of the church. After several weeks, the excitement wears off. Your old routine begins competing for your attention.

MY FIRST, UNFILTERED MINDSET: (Here's my immediate reaction.) "I was doing fine before I committed myself to all this. Maybe I took this discipleship thing too seriously."

MY RADICAL FOLLOWER OF CHRIST MINDSET: (Here's how I rethink and respond as a disciple of Jesus.)

"I have put my hand to the plow. I am not going backward simply because following Jesus has become demanding." You recommit yourself to the specific step of discipleship you began and continue moving forward.

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1. The Command Today: Forward-Look

2. The "Live-Out" Objective:

What specific, concrete action will I take today to keep moving forward in a commitment to following Jesus? (No vague goals; identify where I have been tempted to turn back and one action I will take today to reaffirm that commitment.)

3. My Action:

Ask yourself this question: Is my thinking still a bit resistant to Jesus' radical demands of discipleship in Luke 9:61-62?