

**Faith Bible Study Guide**  
**For the Week of October 26, 2025**  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Loaves & Fish Cafe Presents...**  
**“Faith at the Table - Shareables: Counting the Cost”**



**Be still [2 Minutes]:** As you hear these Centering Words, let us greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence, breathing in the breath of God and allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit today:

**CENTERING WORDS/ WORDS TO PONDER:** “Whoever doesn’t carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Everything at God’s table is a gift—but someone still has to set the table. How do we help people understand what it means to *count the cost* without thinking it’s all sacrifice and no grace?

*Take a deep breath. Imagine sitting at the Loaves & Fish Café, where everyone is welcome, and the bread is shared freely. But imagine, too, that before the meal could happen, someone baked the bread, set the table, and washed the dishes. Discipleship—like this meal—costs something. Take a moment to commune with the Holy Spirit and think on these things.*

**OPENING PRAYER:** Loving God, You invite us to your table of grace and goodness. As we open your Word today, help us to understand what it means to follow you—not just when it’s easy, but even when it’s costly. Teach us to share, to serve, and to give from the heart, so that all may taste and see your goodness. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Be the Word:** Scripture Lesson: Luke 14:25-33

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, 26 “Whoever comes to me and doesn’t hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one’s own life—cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever doesn’t carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 “If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. 30 They will say, ‘Here’s the person who began construction and couldn’t complete it!’ 31 Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? 32 And if he didn’t think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. 33 In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Be present: [Being mindful of others and sharing time]**

1. Take a deep breath. How is it with your soul?
2. What's something recently that has cost you time, energy, or love—but was worth it?
3. When have you seen someone give generously, even when it wasn't easy?
4. How would you describe what it "costs" to follow Jesus in your life right now?

### **Be rooted: [Bible Study]**

#### **Exegesis & Reflection**

Context:

- Jesus is on the road to Jerusalem—the path that leads to the cross. Crowds are following Him, likely full of excitement and hope. But Jesus stops and says something shocking.
- "Hate father and mother" is not about emotional hatred—it's hyperbolic language used to express *priority*. Jesus is saying: "*Your loyalty to me must come before everything else.*"
- The examples—building a tower, a king going to war—are parables about *planning and intentionality*. Jesus is saying, "*Don't follow me lightly. Know what you're saying yes to.*"

Cultural insight:

In first-century Palestine, family was central to identity, security, and belonging. To risk that for Jesus meant giving up social safety nets. Following Jesus could cost someone reputation, comfort, and stability.

Theological insight:

- Discipleship is not about paying *for* grace—it's about living in a way that reflects the cost *of* grace.
- Grace is free, but it's not cheap (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).
- The "cost" of discipleship is the daily decision to live as if God's kingdom truly matters more than our comfort, convenience, or possessions.

Connection to Stewardship Theme:

In our "Loaves & Fish Café," we don't *buy* God's love—but we *share in the cost* of the feast. Our giving, serving, and sharing aren't payment—they're participation.

To count the cost is to ask: *What will it take for all to be fed?*

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think Jesus means when He says to "count the cost"?
2. Why do you think Jesus warned people about how hard following Him would be?
3. What are some "costs" of discipleship today? (time, money, reputation, priorities, etc.)
4. In your life, when has following Jesus required sacrifice or courage?
5. How does your giving (time, talents, resources) connect to your discipleship?
6. In our church community, what "costs" do we share to make ministry possible?
7. What might it mean for us to "build wisely"—to plan, prepare, and give intentionally—so that our faith is sustainable and strong?

### **Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge]:**

Invite participants to take one step this week that reflects "counting the cost" as discipleship:

- **Time:** Give intentional time to someone who needs care or companionship.
- **Talent:** Offer your skills to serve in worship, outreach, or behind the scenes.
- **Treasure:** Reflect prayerfully on your giving as participation in God's work.
- **Testimony:** Share with one person what following Jesus has cost—and given—you.

### Challenge:

This week, every time you eat bread or rice, whisper a prayer:

“Thank you, God, for those who labored so we could share this meal.  
Help me share in your work with love and courage.”

### Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:



*We lift up prayers for all of God's  
Creation. Lord Hear our Prayers.*

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<b>continued prayers for Healing and Wholeness</b>			<b>those in Community Living &amp; Homecare</b>
Alice Kajiya	Dr. DoAnn Tsuneo	Juno Uyematsu	Oscar Philip Bland, Jr.
Alvena Fukuhara	Dr. Kaneko	Juliet Koyanagi	Pearl Iizuka
Amy Higa	Dr. Nguyen	Kaitlyn Sabedra	Priscilla Kandel
Anthony Anderson, Sr.	Elaine Yoshida	Karlynn Fernandez	Raquel M. Martinez
Apolosi Lokotui	Eleanor Ngai	Kay Saxton	Reverend Mike
Arthur Kobashi	Emi Hino	Kian Tehrani	Ron Hamaguchi
Audrey Goto	Ernie Santiago	Kiki Hashimoto	Richard Ueyuenten
Austin Maeda	Faith Tanaka	Kim Foster	Ruth Hirata
Barbara Tamura	Florence Nakakura	Kraig Nakano	Ruth Taira
Betty Kobata	Fred Oshiro	Rev. Kim	Sandra Minjarez-Grange
Bill Morris	Geri Shiraki	Montenegro	Scarlett Bone
Brian Okumura	Glenn and Millie Shimizu	Kelsey DeGracia	Steph Matsunaga
Cami Bruns	Grace Tochihara	Kenny Medeiros	Sue Hamada
Carolyn Hyatt	Grant Hanada	Kyle Ichikawa	Sue Hasegawa
Chic Miyake	Harriet Tateyama	Larry Takumi	Susan Mizuki
Christine Keim	Haru Yasunaga	Layne Nakasone	Susan Slade
Claretta Foster	Hisako Shohara	Linda Jung	Tam Kobayashi
Dan Segawa	Ingrid Peterson	Lucas Yniguez	Theresa Apicella
Danny Tokudomi	Irene Munesato	Marion Antoku	Tommy Sakaguchi
Dan Yamashita	Jack Honda	Mary Jung	Tseyli Mantooth
Derek Troester	Jayne Watanabe	Mary Marchand	Victoria DelaTorre
Deron Tokishi	Jehiel Vinluan	Mary Tamura	Walker Wilkerson
Diane & Destiny	Jerry Osaka	Maxine Butcher	Wayne Shimizu
Ueda-Banda	Joanne Sato	Mutsuko Nishi	Winnie Osaki
	Jordan Sasaki	Nancy Matsushima	
	Joye Barker	Noah Miyagawa-Sue	

  

<b>for All Our Saints</b> Elaine Yoshida, on the passing of her brother, Sadao Larry Sakai (10/16/25)  The Kobayashi Family, on the passing on Kory Kobayashi (10/5/25). <b>A private family service will be held for Kory on November 7, 2025.</b>  Brian Uchida and family, on the passing of Florence Uchida (7/29/25). <b>A Celebration of Life is scheduled for November 1, 2025 at 10:00am. RSVP with Church Office.</b>  Teri Casey and family, on the passing of Carolyn Hyatt (10/13/25). <b>A Celebration of Life is scheduled for November 8, 2025 at 2:00pm. RSVP with Church Office.</b>	<b>for our Worldwide Community</b>  <b>for the Leadership of our Country and our Churches</b>  <b>for the immigrants: migrants, refugees, asylees</b>  <b>for our siblings in Christ who struggle and in need of God's care</b>  <b>for those who live in through wars, unrest, and violence</b>  <b>for those suffering and rebuilding after national disasters and man-made catastrophes</b>
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### Celebrations:

\* Note change for Doris Shigihara's Award, December 7, 2025

### Birthdays:

10/11 - Ron

10/15 - Andie

10/18 - Chad  
10/22 - Miki & Neal Miyake  
10/26 - Allison  
10/27 - Susan DeGracia (Dave Sato, Rusty Chun, Jack Hamada)

### **Beloved Community Concerns:**

- Pearl Iizuka (9/11) - recovering from a new pacemaker (10/9)
- Tam Kobayashi (9/9) / (10/21)
- Audrey Goto recovery
- Kraig Nakano
- Alice Kajiya
- Larry Takumi
- Harriet Tateyama
- Scarlett Bone - Surgery, 10/31 (12:30pm)  
- Liz Harner, Scarlett's Grandma
- Diane Ueda-Banda (to monitor health, but relieved for now)
- Victoria DelaTorre
- Tseyli Mantooth
- Kim Foster & Claretta Foster
- Debra (surgery) and Deborah (101 yo mother; fell) (Kim Foster's friends)
- Dan Yamashita
- Juno Uyematsu
- Kenny & Penny Medeiros
- Walker Wilkerson
- Kirk Miya\* (*private prayers for Bible Study*)
- Alvena Fukuhara (hospitalized and home now)

### **Traveling Mercies**

#### **World Concerns:**

- US; Government (shutdown); medical, food stamps, social security...
- War-torn countries

### **Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord**

- Florence Uchida - Celebration of Life: November 1, 2025, 10am
  - Kory Kobayashi (passed, 10/5) - Celebration of Life: November 7, 2025, private family service
  - Carolyn Hyatt (passed, 10/13) - Celebration of Life: November 8, 2025, 2pm
  - Frank Takashima (community) - Celebration of Life: November 23, 2025
- \* Please send in your names and photos of loved ones for ALL SAINTS DAY, 11/2

FALL BACK - 11/2

### **And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing**

God of grace and generosity,

You call us to follow you with open hearts and willing hands.

Thank you for the gift of your love—free to receive, yet costly to live out.

Help us to count the cost not with fear, but with faith.

May our giving, our sharing, and our service make your love visible in the world.

In the name of Jesus, who gave everything for us, Amen.