



INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

On your own or with your family:

Write or talk about what it means to be "sent out." Jesus sent the disciples to share the Good News of God's kingdom, to heal the sick, and care for those in need. How are you and/or your family called to serve? If you answered this question last week, how has your understanding changed in the last seven days?

Jesus anticipated for the disciples the conflict and struggle they would encounter, including allegiance to family ties. What is it like for you to hear Jesus say that only God can be the most important thing in our lives? How do you think early Christians understood Jesus' invitation to follow him even though it may involve family separation in one form or another? How does your family understand Jesus' word in Matthew 10:35-37? Take some time to process what this means for your family.

What is one way you can spend time in God's presence this week—listening rather than talking, receiving rather than giving?

Reflection for the Week:

"Consider this a 'burr under the saddle' kind of Sunday. Yes, there's grace in the gospel, but this week it's all wrapped up in a bitter reality of the real cost of discipleship. Jesus makes it abundantly clear that a partial commitment doesn't cut it. He wants each and every one of us, AND, he wants all of us. Every last hair on our heads, every ounce of our energy and dedication; Jesus demands our full participation. Want to find real life? You gotta lose everything that stands in between you and Jesus. No fooling. No justifications. It's an all or nothing proposition that we can't accomplish on our own. Thankfully, that's where the Holy Spirit and the merciful love and grace of God comes into play. So go ahead, faithful servant. Put all your cards on the table; lay your soul bare... Know that God is with you... You are not alone, but you have to be a loser to be a keeper in the divine economy. Trust the one who lost it all for you—it's a win/win proposition."

Sharron R. Blezard, "Real Losers", September 2014

<https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2014/06/real-losers/>

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