

# What is the Church

## Crucified

### Big Idea:

Following Jesus will cost you everything. The abundant life has its fair share of opposition.

### Thought Exercise:

- Consider the difference between our “altar call” and the way Jesus called people to decide about him.
- Matthew 16:24
- Have we unintentionally sacrificed deep faith for convenient conversions?

### Items for discussion:

#### Setting the Expectation

- Luke 14:25-33
- Picture one person in your life who embodies vs 33. What about their life is a demonstrates the commitment?
- Is this level of commitment an exception or expected?
- What are some things you value most in your life?
- If you were required to give it all up, would Jesus be enough for you?

#### Compassion vs Tolerance

- Compassion and sensitivity are important Christian characteristics. How do we maintain these virtues while taking a stand against sinful behavior?
- We have to be able to overcome our fear of rejection and suffering and be willing to lay aside the things of this life in order to speak the truth of the Gospel.

#### Count the Cost

- 2 Timothy 2:4
- Where do you belong? Where do you find your identity?
- 1 Peter 4:12-14
- How do you view suffering in the context of your relationship with Jesus?

#### Sacrifice

- 2 Corinthians 4:17 – willingness to suffer is not a love of suffering. What is the difference?
- What are some ways you have sacrificed for the sake of other people in your life?
- How would your decisions be altered if we made each one solely with eternity in mind?

Live in the light of eternity that is coming very soon. We live with a hope and a vision for what the church on earth can be, but we also live with a very real sense of urgency.

