

## Navigating decisions

### Luke 14.25-33

Jesus talks to his many followers about what it means to be a disciple. You have to be prepared to carry the cross, with implications for the whole family. He gives examples: someone who wants to build a tower, or a king thinking of going to war – both need planning and preparation.

Now read **Luke 14.25-33** see p.2 for text.

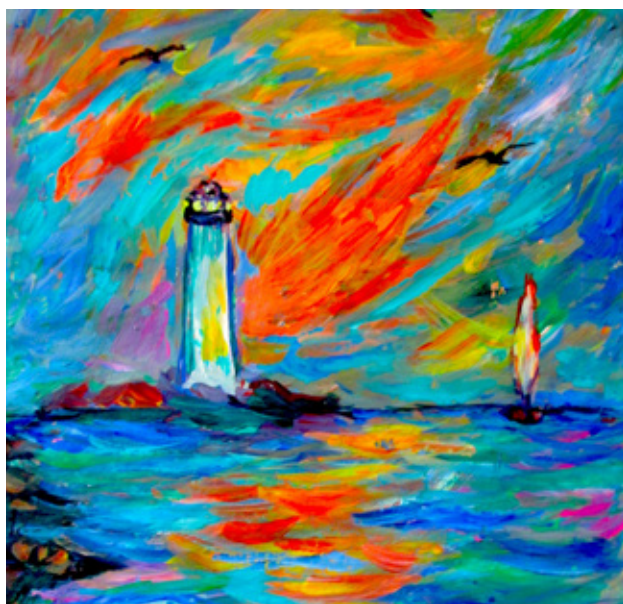
### A note on the passage

Following Jesus isn't generally a quick and easy decision. It will be costly, and needs careful thought and consideration. It's not something you just do; it needs planning. The example of the king considering a war is all-too relevant in 2022.

## Pray



Pray for people in conflict zones: Ukraine might be the most obvious at the moment. Put down something as a focus to remind you of the place, e.g. light blue and yellow paper. Each person places a paper tissue on the focus, and says, 'I weep for (e.g. soldiers, refugees, children). God be with them.' You could sing, 'O Lord, hear my prayer' or you could listen to it here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY)



What helps you to navigate your journey with Jesus?

## BUILD

Build a tower. Work together to plan and build the most stable tower you can. Older and more skilled players could have a tower building competition. The builder of the tallest tower could explain their planning to everyone else. Use whatever materials you have: Lego, wooden bricks, Jenga blocks. Or go outside and use natural things – stones, twigs and branches.



Plans made together are usually the best ones because everyone has contributed. Sit down together and make a plan for something – it could be what you are going to do at the weekend, or plan for half term, or just plan a meal where everyone makes a contribution.

## BAKE

We usually eat hot cross buns for Good Friday, but you could make them now. Here is a recipe that doesn't require yeast.

**You will need:** 75g plain flour, 100g wholemeal flour, 25g oats, 25g dried fruit, 1½ tsp caster sugar, ½ tsp salt, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda, 175ml natural full-fat yoghurt.  
Preheat the oven to 220C, Gas 7. Grease a baking tray. Stir all dry ingredients together in a bowl. Add most of the yoghurt and mix to a soft dough. Add a little extra yoghurt if the dough is dry. Knead the dough for a few minutes until smooth then cut it into four pieces and shape into round buns, flatten slightly with your hand then mark a deep † on the top. Make sure to cut almost all the way to the bottom of the dough, so that the middle of the bread cooks all the way through. Bake for 20 minutes. You could make them shiny by brushing on some syrup or melted honey once baked.

## FIND OUT

Find out about The Hill of Crosses in Lithuania: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hill\\_of\\_Crosses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hill_of_Crosses)

In a country where people have faced a lot of political oppression, they have carried crosses and put them here for over a century. Where might you like to put a cross?



Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

**A** large crowd was travelling with Jesus. He turned and said to them, 'Whoever loves anyone, even their family or their own life, more than me, cannot be my disciple. Anyone who cannot carry the cross and follow me, cannot be my disciple.'

Jesus continued, 'If you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you sit down first and work out the cost, to check that you had enough money to complete it? If you didn't, once you had laid the foundations, you might discover that you couldn't finish it! And everyone who saw it would laugh at you, saying, "This person began to build a tower and couldn't finish the job!"'

'Or if a king goes into battle with another king, wouldn't he first sit down and work out whether his army of 10,000 soldiers can beat the 20,000 soldiers on the other side? If they cannot be beaten, then before they start fighting, the king should try and make peace.'



Jesus said, 'So, I am telling you the cost of following me: you cannot become my disciples if you do not give up all that you own.'

Luke 14.25-33

## Did you know?

- Jesus doesn't tell his followers to reject family or their life, yet before deciding to follow him he says they should know that putting God first will bring tough decisions.

## Luke 14.25-33 (NRSV)

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.