

OCC Connections Bible Study (Group or Personal)

The Tower and the Warring King: Luke 14:28-33 (*read 14:25-35 for context*)

Big Idea: Jesus calls us to sit down, count the cost, and entrust everything to Him.

1) Read Luke 14:25-35 and pray for wisdom and understanding.

2) Observe the Text (choose 2-3)

- What repeated words appear in verses 28-32 (sit down, calculate, deliberate, cannot)?
- In verses 28-30, what starts well but fails, and why?
- In verses 31-32, what limitation does the king discover, and what does he seek?
- How does verse 33 summarize the parable?

3) See the Connections

- **Context:** Verses 25-27 call us to carry our cross and follow him. An invitation leads to a decision.

- **Word Work - “calculate” (v.28):** translates *psephizo* (from *psephos*). Picture casting your vote / casting your pebble: a deliberate decision.
- **Cross references:**
 - Read **Luke 9:23-25:** (take up your cross)
 - **Matthew 13:44-46:** (treasure and pearl)
 - **Philippians 3:7-8:** (gain Christ)
 - **John 15:5:** (Christ as the vine)
 - **2 Corinthians 12:9:** (reliance on His strength)

4) Interpret (what it means)

- **Sit Down and Respond to Christ**
Where do you need to **sit down and respond** to Jesus in your life? Start with **Christ** as the foundation; plan to finish in **His strength**.
- **Consider the Consequence**
Like the king, humility admits limits and seeks *terms of peace*. **Where** is Christ inviting you to rely on Him instead of yourself?
- **Surrender the Old Life for the New**
In responding to Christ, you proclaim that Jesus is Savior and Lord. Have you *surrendered* the old for the new? **Where** is Christ working *specifically* in your life?

5) Apply (how we live)

- **Respond by casting your pebble**
If you’re not sure you’ve started with Jesus, what would it look like to begin today?

- **Let God work on you until the end**

For 7 days, sit with God and keep a simple commitment log:

- **Pray:** *“Lord, clarify the cost You’re asking me to embrace.”* _____
- **Plan:** One concrete next step of obedience.

- **Practice:** One habit that helps you finish (Word, prayer, fellowship, service). _____

- **Live the New Life as God's hands and feet**

This week, act like all of life is the Lord's. What time, talent, or treasure will you place in Jesus' hands? Plan one action:

6) Pray the Text (Luke 14:28-33)

- **Wisdom:** *“Lord, teach me to sit down and respond to you.”*
- **Surrender:** *“I renounce every rival love. You are Lord.”*
- **Dependence:** *“Be my strength to finish what You began.”*
- **Mission:** *“Use my life as Your hands and feet.”*

7) Life Stage Helps

- **Parents/Kids:** What do we say no to so we can say yes to Jesus? Choose one thing as a family this week.
- **Couples/Roommates:** Name one attachment competing with Jesus. Take one renounce-and-replace step.
- **Students/Young Adults:** List your top commitments. Which pulls you from Christ? Reorder one habit.
- **New to Faith:** Read Luke 14:27-33 again this week. Respond to Jesus by following him. Share this good news with someone at church.

Additional Notes or Questions: