

Counting the Cost

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ().

Introduction

All questions and points refer to Scriptures from prior Faith Principles Studies. Cost Counters should be equipped to reference the applicable Scriptures. They are not listed in this study

- We must count the cost before being baptized..... Luke 14:28-30
- It is worse if we start, but do not finish 2 Peter 2:20-22

Hear

- How do you define faith? Hear, Believe, Obey (Romans 10:17, James 2:14-26)
- How are you saved by faith?..... Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Jesus is Lord, Be Baptized (Romans 10:17, 9-10, Acts 2:38)
- Have you devoted yourself to reading the Bible and praying every day?
- Have you devoted yourself to obeying the Bible as written? We will talk more specifically about this in this study

Believe

- Do you believe the Bible is the Only Word of God?
- Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and God raised him from the dead?

Repent

- What does repentance mean? Godly sorrow that leads to a 180° change of direction

Godly Sorrow

- *Why do you want to be a Christian?*
 - *Moved by the love Christ expressed on the Cross*

Confession

- How devoted are you to confessing your sin on a consistent basis in pursuit of repentance?
- How willing are you to be questioned about your sin by others?
- What is the difference between admitting your sin and confessing your sin?
- What sins were hardest to confess? What will be difficult to confess on an ongoing basis?

180° Change

- What sins have you repented of since studying the Bible?
- What sins were the most difficult to overcome throughout your life?
- What sins do you think will be the most difficult to overcome looking forward?
- Give your feedback on what you think will be most difficult to overcome. Assess to see how humble and receptive the person is
- How do you think you can best manage your repentance as a disciple?

Confess Jesus is Lord

Most important is our faith expressing itself through love Galatians 5:6

- With Jesus as Lord, disciples stay saved by living lives of love

Love God: How willing are you to give up everything for Christ?

- **Time**
 - How devoted are you to walking with God consistently through Bible study and prayer daily?
 - How much consistent time are you devoting to God through Bible study and prayer daily?
 - How devoted are you to seeking the Kingdom first by attending all the worship meetings?
 - What do you understand are the worship meetings of the body that we conduct? Discuss Midweek and Sunday services and meetings
- **Relationships**
 - What are the relationships that may hinder your devotion to Christ? Family, Friends, Co-workers, Opposite gender
 - How will you handle these relationships to maintain your devotion to Christ?
- **Possessions**
 - How devoted are you to being a reliable financial contributor to God's church?
 - Review Special Contribution and how pledges are helpful for budgetary planning
 - How enthusiastic are you about being consistent in your giving to God and His church? How do you feel about discussing your tithe with a financially qualified disciple?
 - What difficulties do you foresee with your ability to be consistent with financially investing?

Love the Disciples

How devoted are you to giving in the fellowship during meetings of the body?

Worship services are important, because they are great ways to love the other disciples

- How devoted are you to being there earlier and staying later at worship meetings for fellowship and serving?
- We are called to give of ourselves so that the fellowship can be a place of encouragement: What do you think this means?
 - When we feel like we are doing well spiritually, we can give by encouraging others. When we feel like we are not doing well, we can give of ourselves by being vulnerable with our difficulties and allowing others into our hearts to encourage us.
- How devoted are you to being giving, interactive or vulnerable in the fellowship?

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ().

Love the Disciples (continued)

How devoted are you to being humble in initiating discipling and partnership?

- We should initiate with each other DAILY, so we can mature into having thriving faith partnerships. In general, New Christians require much more training to mature spiritually and build partnership (Hebrews 3:12-13, 5:11-14)
- Thus, there should be at least 2 people in your life who can help train and disciple you spiritually (1 Thessalonians 2:6-12)
- Since the goal is to mature from a discipling relationship to a more peer partnership, the 2 people training you should be closer and more available than the minister. Suggest the partnership that will disciple the new member. Assess the person's response
- What would you like to learn and what types of connections do you want in order to grow and thrive spiritually?
- Since discipling involves humility, how willing are you to be questioned and advised?
- More importantly, how eager are you to initiate seeking and applying advice?
- How willing are you to be humble about intimately personal areas that typically impact our spirituality? Here are some examples:
 - Managing Chronic Sin or Addiction
 - Time Management: Keeping priorities that strengthen devotion to loving God and others
 - Career: Being a spiritual example on the job, upgrading your job or getting a job
 - Finances: Honoring God with your money, Managing money well, getting out of debt
 - Relationships
 - Friends and Co-workers, Immediate Family (parents, siblings, etc.), Parenting
 - Marriage (fights, physical intimacy issues: 1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
 - Dating

Serving and leading helps to build yourself and others to maturity.

- How eager are you to lead in which roles? Review the 4 areas of leadership. Discuss Leaders Meeting Schedule. Discuss how Needs and Hospitality are a good start for New Christians
- How devoted are you to serving in areas like ushering, Kingdom Kids, A/V, etc?

How devoted are you to relating with the opposite gender in the Spirit of Christ?

- The men are called to love, serve and lead the women with a Christ-like example
- The women are called to respect, serve and support the men like the church does Christ

◆ How willing are you to marry only a disciple?

◆ How willing are you to date only disciples on a consistent basis?

How devoted are you to resolving conflict spiritually?

- Disciples are called to resolve conflict quickly and directly
- How devoted are you to considerably involving others, if matters cannot be resolved personally?

Love the Lost

- Who would you like to impact for Christ?
- How would you like to impact people for Christ?
- What time have you opened up in your schedule to impact others for Christ? Be mindful about:
 - Making time to meet new people
 - Making time to be hospitable
 - Making time to study the Bible with others
- How devoted are you to participating in our efforts to help the poor and needy?

Do you know of any churches outside of this one that practice biblical love like ours does?

- You will be devoting a significant amount of time and resources to loving God and others. Let's partner to carefully think through your schedule and life to set you up for a great life of faith

Be Baptized

- What does baptism mean? Dying to sin and being raised through faith to a new life
 - How strongly do you stand on the only way to be saved is through Hearing, Believing, Repentance, Confessing Jesus is Lord, and Baptism?
 - What if I only did some of them?
 - What if I did it in a different order?
 - Why do these all need to work together to have a saving faith?
 - How devoted are you to attending only a church that teaches this plan of salvation?
- ### *Do you know of any churches outside of this one that teach this plan of salvation outside of ours?*
- There are churches worldwide that teach this plan of salvation, so we have little excuse. We should be devoted to attending only a church that teaches salvation by true faith: Hearing, Believing, Repentance, Lordship and Baptism
 - What 2 other views of salvation are there and what do they teach? Ritual and Belief Based