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| Welcome | What famous people do you 'follow' (eg on Twitter or by other forms of media)? |
| Worship ideas | <i>Worship suggestions: include some songs about commitment, e.g. SOF 120 From heaven you came, 599 Trust and obey, 859 I will worship, 873 Jesus lover of my soul, 912 Lord you have my heart (NB: 20 files containing about 30 newer songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)</i> |
| Word (refs.↓) | NB Check the church website www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab) for Sunday's sermon. Some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions |
| <u>Read</u> Luke 14:25-33 | <p><i>Read vv.25-27</i> - compare with Matthew 10:37-39. In Luke's version, Jesus seems to be using the term 'hate' as a hyperbole (exaggeration) for 'love less (in comparison to him)'. What examples can you think of in your own experience where loyalty to God and loyalty to family have come into conflict?</p> <p>How do we square the words about 'hating our own life' with the command to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'?</p> <p>In Jesus' day, people carrying their cross were 'dead men walking' (on their way to be executed). Do you think "carrying one's cross" today refers to problems Christians have to bear, or something more radical, in some way connected with death (e.g. dying to self, to our old life, to sin)?</p> <p><i>Read vv.28-32</i> - and reflect on what Jesus is saying here about 'counting the cost'. One commentator has explained vv.31-2 like this: "It's important also to consider the cost of <u>not</u> following Jesus. Do you have the resources to make peace with God, apart from Jesus and his sacrifice for the reconciliation of the world?" What do you think of this interpretation?</p> <p><i>In a recent Christianity Today interview, Rico Tice (Associate Minister for Evangelism at All Souls' Langham Place), was asked, 'Is there something wrong with the expectations that we give people – become a Christian and it will be wonderful?' He replied:</i></p> <p><i>'Yes, absolutely, and they're lying. That's why Jesus says, 'If anyone would come after me, he must take up his cross and follow me. So the gospel that people have preached is "that this is who Jesus is, this is why he died, come to him". But the real gospel is this, "this is who he is, this is why he died, now follow him".'</i></p> <p>What do you think? How important is it to explain to people the challenges involved in being a Christian before encouraging them to follow Jesus?</p> <p><i>Read v.33</i> - We may understand these verses too as hyperbole, or 'spiritualise' them as referring to a readiness to renounce our material goods if and when we are called to do so. But what actual sacrifices do you think Jesus might be asking the church in 21st-century Britain to make? What implications might there be for you as a group?</p> |
| If time... <u>Read</u> Philemon | If time, read this whole chapter (book) through and discuss how Onesimus (the runaway slave who had become a Christian) might be feeling about 'doing the right thing' and going back to his master Philemon, and how Philemon would be likely to react to Onesimus' return and Paul's letter. |
| <u>Witness</u> | <p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link; for those you know who don't yet follow Jesus <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ group plans for the term, including social/ outreach events and the 'Cider and Apple Harvest Supper' at the Village Hall on October 5th. ❖ to consider coming as a group to the launch of 'Believe in Hull' with Archbishop Sentamu, Tuesday October 1st at Holy Trinity Hull, 7.30 pm. |