

# Table Host Discussion Guide

## Week 3: True Faith: How Jesus Defines Discipleship

This week we let Jesus, not culture, define what real faith is. In Luke 9, Jesus rejects “follow you... but first” discipleship and calls us to put our hand to the plow without looking back, showing that faith is not casual proximity to Jesus but committed participation in His kingdom mission (Luke 9:57–62). In Matthew 10 and Matthew 16, Jesus warns that allegiance to Him may bring friction—even within families—and then clarifies that true discipleship requires denying self, taking up the cross, and surrendering control (Matthew 10:21–22, 37–38; Matthew 16:24–26). In John 6, many “disciples” walk away when Jesus’ teaching becomes costly, but true faith clings to Him because there is nowhere else to go. He alone has the words of eternal life (John 6:60, 66–69). The call of the night: identify the “yes” you’ve withheld from Jesus and the “no” you’ve been unwilling to say to yourself, and choose wholehearted discipleship with joy—because His way is better.

### Discussion Questions

1. Where have you been tempted to measure your faith by cultural Christianity instead of Jesus’ words?
  - **Application:** What’s one area where you’ve relied on a label (“I’m a Christian because...”) more than a lived pattern of obedience, and what would it look like to realign that area this week?
2. What does Luke 9:57–62 teach us about excuses and delayed obedience?
  - **Application:** What is your most common “but first” (comfort, schedule, relationships, fear, money, approval), and what concrete step of obedience can you take in the next 7 days?
3. How should we understand Jesus’ hard words about family in Matthew 10?
  - **Application:** How can you lead your home (or your closest relationships) to integrate faith into daily life instead of treating Jesus as “leftovers” time, especially when activities, traditions, or people pressure you to compromise?
4. What does it mean to “deny yourself and take up your cross” in everyday life?
  - **Application:** If someone watched your calendar, your spending, your entertainment, and your relationships, where would they see that Jesus is Lord, and where would they see that you’re still in charge?
5. What does John 6 reveal about false faith versus true faith?
  - **Application:** What “hard teaching” do you struggle to accept right now, and what would it look like to say, “Jesus, You are Lord. I will listen, and I will follow,” even if your feelings lag behind?