



BALLARAT & CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST PRINCIPLES | STUDY 11 OF 11

Counting the Cost

A self-guided Bible study. Read the passages for yourself, then write down your own answers, questions and conclusions.

This week

Day 1: Before you decide

Day 2: A relationship with God

Day 3: A mission

Day 4: Helping each other remain faithful

Day 5: Fellowship

Day 6: Relationships, gifts and service

Day 7: Money, priorities and the whole decision

Study 11: Final Reflection

Before you decide

Read

- Luke 14:28-33 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

- Acts 2:36-41 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. Why does Jesus use the examples of a builder and a king?
2. What does He want someone to consider before following Him?
3. In Acts 2, what decision do people make?
4. What appears to lead up to it?

For yourself

What would I need to understand before making a serious commitment to Jesus?

A relationship with God

Read

- Matthew 4:4 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Mark 1:35 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- 2 Timothy 2:15 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What place does God's word have?
2. What place does prayer have?
3. How did Jesus Himself make time for prayer?
4. What habits might help someone develop a continuing relationship with God?

For yourself

What time could I realistically set aside for prayer and Scripture? What would help me begin and keep going?

A mission

Read

- Luke 19:10 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- 2 Corinthians 5:10-21 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Matthew 28:18-20 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What does Jesus say His mission is?
2. What mission does Paul describe?
3. What mission does Jesus give His followers?
4. How might following Jesus affect someone's purpose in life?

For yourself

How could sharing the hope I am discovering become part of my life? Who might I begin with?

Helping each other remain faithful

Read

- Hebrews 3:12-13 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What danger does the passage identify?
2. What are Christians supposed to do for one another?
3. Why might this require openness and trust?
4. What kind of encouragement actually helps someone follow God?

For yourself

What would help me receive encouragement honestly and offer it thoughtfully? Who could I build that kind of trust with?

Fellowship

Read

- Acts 2:42-47 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Hebrews 10:23-25 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What do the first Christians regularly do together?
2. Why do they meet?
3. What does Hebrews say Christians should contribute when they gather?
4. What might committed participation in a church community involve?

For yourself

What would committed participation in a church community mean for my time and priorities? What could I contribute?

Relationships, gifts and service

Read

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Ephesians 2:8-10 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Romans 12:4-8 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What principles about close relationships do you see?
2. Is salvation described as something earned through good works?
3. What place do good works have afterwards?
4. Why are people given different abilities?

For yourself

How could following Jesus affect my relationships, priorities and use of my abilities?

Money, priorities and the whole decision

Read

- Acts 2:45 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Luke 11:42 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- Malachi 3:10 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)
- 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 - [Read NIV on YouVersion](#)

Think about it

1. What different attitudes towards possessions and giving appear?
2. What dangers does Jesus identify in Luke 11:42?
3. What principles can you see about supporting God's work and caring for others?
4. What is the difference between generous faith and merely following a financial rule?

For yourself

What do my current spending and giving reveal about my priorities? What might I change in response to these passages?

Final Reflection

You have now worked through the full First Principles series. Before anyone tells you what conclusion you should reach, go back through your own notes.

What have I discovered about God?

What have I discovered about Jesus?

What have I discovered about myself?

What do I think the Bible says someone should do in response to Jesus?

Which conclusions am I confident about?

Which questions are still unresolved?

What would I like to investigate next?

Based on what I have read for myself, what do I believe my next step should be?

It is okay if the answer is: 'I don't know yet.' If so, write down exactly what you still need to understand.

Pilot feedback

If you are test-running this material, it may help to note which days felt clear, which questions felt leading or confusing, which readings felt too long, and what you wished the study had asked.

Source note

This pilot edition was developed from the study sequence and Scripture selections in the supplied Sydney Church of Christ study series (Guard the Gospel), with the discussion material rewritten as self-guided, open-ended questions.