

TRADE OFFS



Week Three: Lay it Down – Study Guide

By Todd Burleson
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Excuses ... we have all heard them and have made them. As children we gave excuses for why a chore wasn't completed or homework wasn't done, but as adults it gets much worse. In every case, an excuse is either the reason for not doing something, or the result of making a bad decision. In this study we'll see how, as Jesus sets out to put His redemptive plan in motion, He loves us through our excuses even when we reject Him. Choosing Him is always the best choice.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) We all at some point, or in some situation, have had to choose between two seemingly great things: two job opportunities, a house to rent or buy, which car to drive. It's likely we all have looked back and wondered if we made the right choice. Where in your life have you ever had remorse about a choice, or in hindsight not fully understood the cost or consequences for the choice you made?

Into the Bible

- 2) Just because Jesus tells us to put something down as we follow Him doesn't mean that we won't have to prepare and possibly face opposition. Read **Luke 9:51-56**. What significance is there to the phrase, "set His face," and why was Jesus so determined to go to Jerusalem? After the Samaritans rejected them, why do you think Jesus seemed more concerned with His disciples' attitude than the rejection?

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- 3) Read **Luke 9:57-62**. Jesus made three very bold statements that described why different people didn't lay everything down to follow Him. From these three things that Jesus said, how can we connect each statement to the fact that there is a cost to following Him; that we need to move now and we shouldn't look back? In verses 61 and 62, what was Jesus really saying to the person unwilling to follow Him?

How Does This Apply

- 4) Jesus was the perfect example of moving forward with no delay to accomplish an important goal. Knowing the difficulty and suffering ahead, He resolved to courageously carry out the plan of salvation. In what area of your life do you need His type of courage to follow through with something He wants you to do? How could taking action steps like getting back to a quiet time, getting consistent with attending a weekly service, or joining a serving team help?
- 5) God is more concerned with how we as believers treat others than how others accept us. Being like Jesus means showing mercy and forgiveness, which is what He accomplished when He died for us. If you do not yet know Jesus, what is your next step to take in order to experience His forgiveness and mercy in your life? If you are a Jesus follower, whom can you begin to pray for that they would have new life in Him?
- 6) When we run over life's "bumps," it's easy to want to stop, look back and see what went wrong. When we keep our eyes on Jesus in front and never take them off of Him, we don't need to look back at what we've left behind. What things in this world cause you to trip up and look back? How can your Life Group begin to pray with you and for you to stay focused on the road ahead?



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Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) The decision between following God in an area of your life and choosing a different direction is not always so cut and dried. Read **Luke 9:59-60**. There is certainly nothing wrong with honoring a family tradition, such as a funeral, or tending to family or other important obligations, but Jesus is saying here that there is nothing more urgently important than responding to the Gospel. How can you begin to trust God so that following Him *first* will result in Him working greatly in every area of your life?