

Study H: Costly Obedience

*"For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ
not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him."*
Phil. 1:29

Why: Reasons for the study

- To share different experiences and forms of suffering from the lives of others
- To see how others have lived fulfilled lives through their obedience to Christ even in the midst of suffering and sacrifice
- This serves as a great summary and wrap up of all the lessons in CTO.

What: Principles to grasp

- It is costly to obey Jesus because we have to give up what we want.
- Costly obedience is forfeiting our right to ourselves.
- Costly obedience may require suffering, sacrifice and persecution.
- Our common way to approach life is to find ways to bless ourselves, and in doing so, we often miss the ways that God is blessing us.
- Suffering and God's blessing are not mutually exclusive.
- God's blessings often look different than what we expect or demand.

How: Path to a changed life

- To identify things your disciples are refusing to do in obedience to God's commands
- To confess demands to be blessed according to their standards
- To identify areas of risk to further God's Kingdom they are ignoring
- To identify areas in which they are procrastinating instead of following Jesus
- To identify areas of sacrifice they are resisting
- To determine what Christ, the Suffering Savior, is calling them to do
- To be encouraged that there are others who have suffered greatly, yet God blessed them in the middle of their darkest hours
- To look for God's daily blessings in big and small ways

Helpful ideas:

- Use the questions that are scattered through the study to evaluate how your disciple is relating to God and others.
- For a great summary of what costly obedience is, see the paragraph in the middle of page 5 that begins..."Costly obedience... is forfeiting our right to ourselves."

Tools and additional resources:

- Use the *Daily Log* to record blessings each day (ctousa.org/tools/resources/charts and outlines)