



Part 1: It Won't Work

Scripture: Luke 4:5–6; 9:23; Matthew 4:9–10; Deuteronomy 6:12–13; 1 Corinthians 1:17

Main Idea: It's not intuitive to choose to lose, but Jesus introduced an upside-down way of living.

Introduction:

Begin by sharing some initial thoughts about the idea of "choosing to lose."

Notable Quote:

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." — 1 Corinthians 1:18

Icebreaker Questions:

- What is one situation in your life where you felt like you "lost" but later realized it was a gain?
- Have you ever taken a risk that went against conventional wisdom? What was the outcome?

Observation Questions:

- Read Luke 4:5–6. What stands out to you in these verses?
- Read Matthew 4:9–10. How does Jesus' response to temptation challenge conventional wisdom?
- Read Luke 9:23 and discuss what it means to take up your cross daily.

Interpretation Questions:

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:17. What does it mean to "choose to lose" in the context of Jesus' teachings?
- How does the idea of the cross as an upside-down way of living contrast with worldly values?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:12–13. How do these scriptures help us understand the power of the cross?



Application Questions:

- How can you apply the principle of "choosing to lose" in your daily life?
- What are some areas in your life where you need to embrace this upside-down way of living?

Respond in Prayer:

Pray for the strength and wisdom to follow Jesus' example of humility and self-sacrifice in your daily life.