



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 17th September 2023



### Matthew 8:18-22 Foxes and Funerals: Chris Short

#### Warm Up

What is the worst place you have had to spend the night? Why was it bad?

Have you ever promised to do something for someone and then regretted it once you started because it was not as good as you thought, or it was much more challenging?

#### Background and context

Jesus has been preaching, teaching and healing all around the region of Galilee. A teacher of the law has witnessed it all and believes that Jesus is the one, the Messiah, the one to follow. He decides to speak to Jesus and pledge to follow Him wherever He goes. Another man wants to follow but has important things to do first. Jesus gives unexpected answers to both.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ MATTHEW 8:18-22.** *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. What do you understand to be 'The shape' of following Jesus? How is it revealed in Baptism?
2. When you first became a believer, were you aware *"that we must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God"*? (Acts 14:22)
3. Read John 15:18-19. What has following Jesus cost you, or people you know?
4. What are the TWO ways to be dead?
5. How does it benefit people around us when we put Jesus first?
6. How has Jesus made you more patient, generous, forgiving and gentle, etc?
7. It is costly to put people first, but why is it more costly not to do so?
8. What does this phrase mean?

**"There is no refuge from The King, there is only refuge in The King."**

#### Growing in discipleship: Practical application



Spend some time discussing how you might deepen your relationship with Christ, as an individual, a group, and as members of VBC. How would a non Christian know you were a devoted follower of Jesus?



#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.