

**John 21:18-25**  
**Bible study questions and application**

1. Ask the group to share some of their experiences of “discipleship”.
2. “Follow me” were important words to Jesus. See John 1:43; Matthew 4:19; John 10:27 and John 12:6. What did Jesus intend by using those words?
3. Review where we have come from in John 21. A helpful way to do this is to see the passage dividing into 7 parts – all addressing the matter of discipleship. The 5 parts we have covered are:
  - a. Men serving in the energy of the flesh
  - b. We see the bareness of such efforts
  - c. The Lord re-directs their energies telling them where to work
  - d. The Lord’s gracious provision for His servants
  - e. The only acceptable motive for service – love for Christ
4. Examine John 21:18 to see that Jesus commission Peter to feed his sheep but that when he is old he will die the death of a martyr.
5. Discuss the fact that God has a purpose in giving trials according to Peter in 1 Peter 1:6. How does that apply to us in the hard and difficult times we face?
6. Why is “discipleship in the flesh” short lived (Peter’s denial of Jesus)?
7. Discuss authentic discipleship in dependence on God (Peter’s martyrdom\_
8. In the sermon we differentiated between the outcome of cheap grace and costly grace. Discuss the comments about these differently understood concepts of grace along with Bonhoeffer’s quote below:

Sloppy erratic discipleship will flow from what is called **cheap grace**. Easy come, easy go...

Self-denial discipleship will flow from what we can call **costly grace**. This is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer learned about the grace of the Lord Jesus before he was martyred for his faith.

*“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: ‘Ye were bought at a price’, and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.”*

9. In what ways can we improve in our following of Jesus?