



# Discussion Guide

## Sermon Synopsis

Most people understand what it means to be “All In.” An employee may be on the job, not doing the best, and their boss may call them to a meeting to determine if they are “all in.” Are they fully committed and giving their all? A financial investor may see an investment of great potential, so they will go “all in” on the opportunity. On a sports team, a coach will challenge his players to be “all in” – fully committed, fully engaged, not half-hearted or lacking. While these things – a job, an investment, a team – can all be wonderful, they are nothing compared to what our commitment should be to the Lord Jesus Christ. We invite you to listen today to examine yourself to consider, “Are you ‘All in’ with Jesus?”

*As a group, read Luke 9:57-62*

### **Reflecting on True Commitment:**

Reflect on a time when your commitment to a cause was truly tested. What motivated you to stick with it or caused you to walk away? How can we apply the same principles to ensure our commitment to Christ and His mission remains steadfast, especially in challenging times?

### **Assessing Personal Commitment:**

Considering Jesus’ words in Luke 9:62 about putting a hand to the plow and not looking back, what are specific areas in your life where you feel you’ve looked back or hesitated? What steps can you take this week to renew your commitment in these areas, ensuring your actions align with your faith?

### **Planning for Action:**

What is one tangible action you can commit to this month that will demonstrate your commitment to Christ’s mission? How has God gifted you in some area that uniquely equips you to advance His Kingdom as you participate in the vision and mission of Crosslink Community Church? How will you hold yourself accountable for this commitment?

**May 5, 2024**

**Acts 2:36-42**

## **One Liner of the Week**

Can you imagine what would happen in the Church if every church attender today was actually “All in” with Jesus?

## **Food for the Soul**

M: Acts 1:1-26

T: Acts 2:1-47

W: Acts 3:1-26

T: Acts 4:1-37

F: Acts 5:1-42

S: Acts 6:1-15

S: Acts 7:1-60

# Leader Guide

***“Commitment” looks like showing up and contributing even when its inconvenient or dangerous.***

If you’ve ever seen the movie “Patriot”, you might remember a scene where things were beginning to get really hard for the American Militiamen who were fighting the British in what seemed like a lost cause. In the scene, upon receiving some bad news, a Preacher turned soldier stood up to walk off saying to the group “That’s it, I’m through (done)”. He may have seemed to be a committed patriot at the outbreak of the war but, when the pressure was turned up, it became clear that he was *un-committed* to the cause. If we say we believe in something, we show just how committed we are to that which we believe by how we “stick it out” even when things get hard and uncomfortable. If we say that we are truly ***“All in with Jesus”***, we will demonstrate the truth of that claim by how faithfully we participate in ***His*** mission.

Jesus spells it all out clearly in Luke 9:57-62. Following Him, walking behind Him, and toiling along side Him is an immense blessing. In our wildest dreams, we could not possibly imagine that unworthy sinners such as us could be the object of such great love. The Holy One has chosen us, His Church, blemished and sinful as we may be, to be *committed participants* in His mission to reach the spiritually dead, the vile, the broken, the poor, the destitute, the sick, the **lost** people who inhabit His world. But we do not get to participate in His mission on our own terms. We are called, commanded even, to participate on His terms and His terms alone. And what has the Lord Christ said regarding the level of commitment He desires, and requires, from those of us who claim His name as our own and His mission as our calling? *“Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”* Those are strong words. Those are un-bending words. Those are the words of a conquering King who is singularly devoted to victory and expects the same from His soldiers.

But when we look at the landscape of the Church in North America today with those words of the Lord Christ in the forefront of our minds, its hard to not feel sad about it all. Committed and focused on the mission are hardly words that can be used to describe the state of Evangelicalism today. Quite the opposite, actually. Much of what calls itself Church is only so when it is convenient, comfortable, cushy, and cool. “We love you Lord, but don’t ask for our time. You’ve given us everything Lord, but don’t ask for our money. We want to follow you Lord but let’s take the easy route. We’d die for you Lord, but not until tomorrow. We want to make disciples Lord, but can’t we find them somewhere where we don’t have to get dirty?” My oh my... We could go on for hours like this. Jesus is standing before us, at this hour, in this moment in time, saying to us *“Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

So, what do we do? We’re all guilty of being the uncommitted disciple at some point or another. That’s just a fact we must accept. None of us are super-Christians. We know we must study scripture. We know we must be a people of prayer, individually. Those are obvious *givens*. Today, we should be keenly aware that Christ does His work most powerfully when local groups of Christians band together as one, pooling their time, talents, and resources behind a unified, Gospel-focused vision and mission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We stand at a great fork in the road as Crosslink Community Church, my friends, because we have a vision and mission that stands as our battle flag in this lost world and our Great High King, the Lord Jesus Himself, carries that banner in His nail scarred hands. So, if you would be a Christian marked by commitment to the Kingdom of God, would you consider your time, your talents, and your resources and what you can personally commit to the advancement of this unified mission? Put your hands to the plow, believer, and don’t look back! The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! Onward! The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. ~Wills Kitchen