



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

‘Letting Go’ (Sacrificing) **(Luke 14:25-35/Luke 18:18-23)**

Corporate Prayer

Leader: Loving Father God, we come into your presence with thanksgiving and praise for the love that reaches out to us in our poverty in order that we might become rich in your blessing. Thank you for the sacrifice of sending your Son and your Spirit into our lives.

All: **Father, Son and Spirit, we honour your sacrifice for us, and humbly bow before you.**

Leader: Gracious Jesus, Son of God, we come into your presence in deep gratitude and humility for the grace that has shared your life with us. Thank you for sacrificing the splendour of heavenly unity in order to be with us and to save us from our selfishness.

All: **Father, Son and Spirit, we honour your sacrifice for us, and humbly bow before you.**

Leader: Holy Spirit of fellowship, unity and peace, we submit our lives before the mighty power that seeks to lift us into the life of God. Thank you for your sacrificial, self-effacing fellowship that draws us into friendship with Jesus the Son and adoption as children of God.

All: **Father, Son and Spirit, we honour your sacrifice for us, and humbly bow before you.**

Prayer Activities

- *You will need stones or pebbles.*

Give everyone a stone (or pebble). Encourage people to think of something that is holding them back in their discipleship, or maybe even write on the stone in one or two words what this is. Then ask people to symbolically lay this stone down on an altar at the front or on the mercy seat, and to prayerfully tell God what it is that they are ‘letting go of’ in order to follow more faithfully.





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- *You will need a range of different magazines or newspapers.*

Give the group the magazines and newspapers to look at. Encourage them to identify some attitude, activity, value, or story that represents a distraction, barrier or hindrance to following Jesus faithfully and wholeheartedly. The important thing is to find something that meaningfully needs to be 'let go of' in their lives or in the life of the congregation as a whole. Then invite them to come and shred these clippings in a shredder at the front.

- Letting go can also be understood in terms of releasing. Invite the congregation to pray prayers of releasing for individuals, situations or ministries that need the releasing power of God to be at work, setting them free to flourish and grow.

Prayer Points

- **Thanksgiving** - Take some time in thanksgiving and praise for God's Son Jesus, who gave himself up fully for our salvation, letting go of any temptation to protect himself or spare himself from what he knew was coming in terms of his arrest, trial and crucifixion. (Philippians 2)
- **Confession** - Enable people to spend some time in confession, in which they can personally ask forgiveness for the ways in which they have held back, or held on to things in their lives that have hindered their progress, faithfulness and fruitfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Intercession** - Pray for leaders in the Church (including The Salvation Army) who need courage in discerning what things we need to 'let go of' in being faithful and fruitful for Jesus Christ in our ministry and service.
- **Intercession** - Pray for friends, neighbours and colleagues who you know are putting barriers up to God in their lives, afraid of letting God into their lives, perhaps in fear of what God might ask of them, unaware that God is able to give far more than he takes away.
- **Intercession** - Pray for each other in your Christian community, for a hunger and desire to follow God more closely and faithfully together, with a willingness to identify the blockages and barriers to putting deeper roots down into the life of God that he longs to flow within and through us.

