



SAMPLER

Explore a sample from LIVE's new message series





Sample Message From *The Freedom of Commitment Series*

Flexible! Easy! Impact! Each LIVE Message Series contains an outline, interactive prompts, activities, and supply lists—delivered to you in a Word document file for full customization.

JESUS WANTS ALL-IN FOLLOWERS

Overview: Help teenagers explore the contrasts between half-hearted and all-in efforts, and grapple with what it means to be “all-in” with Jesus. They’ll discover how Jesus’ first disciples were drawn into a deeper level of commitment with Jesus, and pray for the strength to be all-in followers.

Supplies: You’ll need Bibles, darts and a dartboard (or a small ball and a target), inflated balloons, and the following Prayer Station supplies:

1. Large sticky notes and markers
2. Legos or other building blocks
3. A long sheet of butcher paper, an old tennis shoe, an ink pad (or washable paint in a tray)

Optional: A music player and the song “The Cost” by Rend Collective

1. Opening

Say: **Today let’s explore what it means to follow Jesus as a “disciple”—it’s a churchy-sounding word that means, simply, that we’re committed followers. Not because we’re supposed to be, but because we’re so drawn to Him that we can’t help ourselves...**

Invite kids to join in two challenges. In one, they throw a dart at a dartboard (or a small ball at a target) without using their thumbs. In the other, they work in pairs to volley a balloon in the air as long as possible without using their arms or hands. Afterward, ask:

- **In each of these experiences, you had to hold something back. What was that like for you?**
- **In life, sometimes we go all-in; we put our full effort into what we’re doing. But other times we’re half-hearted. What are some things you do in life that you give something like an “all-in” commitment to? Explain.**
- **What are some things you do in life that don’t draw out an all-in commitment from you? Explain.**

2. Bible Connection

Ask: **We are whole-hearted with some things and half-hearted with others—we tend to go all-in with the things we’re naturally passionate about. So, what does that have to do with our commitment to following Jesus? What does it mean to really be all-in with him?**

Form trios to read about Jesus’ interactions with people who aren’t quite “all-in.” Have half of the groups read Mark 10:17-31 and the other half read Luke 9:57-62.

Then have trios discuss these questions:

- **What keeps the people Jesus is interacting with from going all-in with him?**

- **What is Jesus’ point? What does he want these people to realize?**

Next, have half of the groups read Matthew 7:13-23 and the other half read Luke 14:28-33. Then have groups discuss:

- **In your own words, how would you sum up the main point of your Bible passage?**
- **Imagine you actually heard, face-to-face, what Jesus said and did here—what’s your gut reaction to these tough teachings?**

Gather back together and invite students to share their reactions to all four passages. Then highlight these key points:

- **Jesus doesn’t want half-hearted fans; he wants all-in followers—that’s because he wants an intimate relationship, not a going-through-the-motions “arrangement.” That makes sense—you wouldn’t consider marrying someone who’s unwilling to really commit to you, right? We’re not looking for half-hearted love, because that’s not really love.**
- **Jesus can tell what’s holding people back from being all-in, and he directly challenges them on it.**
- **Jesus clarifies that an obedience born out of true passion—not just appearing religious—is at the heart of an all-in life of following Jesus.**
- **Following Jesus comes with a “cost” that, in truth, doesn’t feel like a huge cost if we’re captured by his heart. It’s giving all of ourselves, not just some.**



Sample Message

(continued)

3. Digging Deeper

Have teenagers take turns reading aloud these examples of all-in faith: Matthew 4:18-22 and John 20:24-28.

Then ask:

- **In these accounts, what stands out to you the most? Why?**
- **What causes the fishermen to leave behind their lives? What do they give up? Why do they do it?**

Say: **Rather than “doubting Thomas,” we could also call this disciple “all-in Thomas.” Once he’s convinced Jesus has been resurrected, he proclaims, “My Lord and my God!”**

Teach about lordship: Lord was a title of respect, but it also meant more. Proclaiming someone lord over your life meant they ruled your life. Thomas’ declaration is the same one Scripture challenges us to proclaim with our lives: Jesus is also the Lord over all that we are. Being a Christian isn’t about saying a magic prayer of belief; it’s about following Jesus, no matter the cost.

4. Closing

Invite kids to respond by spending time at one (or all) of the Prayer Stations. Explain what they’ll do at each station:

1. **Pray about what Jesus may be calling you to leave behind. Write what you think he’s telling you to let go**

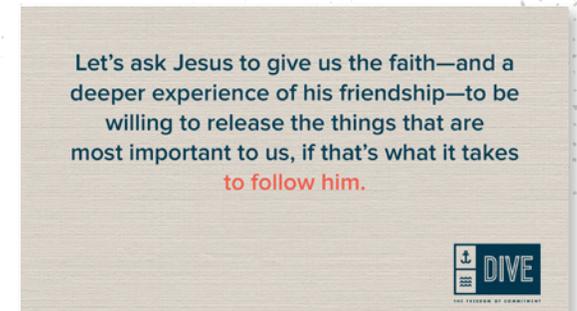
of on a sticky note. Then fold it over so others can’t see the writing and stick it to the wall.

2. **Confess any half-heartedness in your faith life. Pray about what cost Jesus is calling you to more seriously consider. Add some bricks to the tower.**
3. **Pray about a specific next step Jesus may be inviting you to take to follow him. Then make a shoe footprint on the “narrow road” of paper.**

Allow ample time for students to pray at the stations. Wrap up by praying for students as they individually listen to and respond to Jesus. (Optional: As a concluding worship experience, play “The Cost” by Rend Collective.)

Message Series Slides

Message outline comes with pre loaded and blank slide templates like the ones shown below.





What's included in LIVE Message Series

4-Message Series

- 4 primary messages contained in Microsoft Word files
- Messages work together as a whole or individually
- Easy to lead, easy to prepare for
- A rich mix of leader insights, student interaction, and memorable experiences

Extra Impact

- 1 sermon script
- 1 interactive prayer experience

Graphics Teaching Assets

(All slides are JPG and intended for wide screen projection)

- Professionally designed sets of slides—one for each primary message
- Thematic intro or transition slides
- Blank teaching slides, ready for customizing

Promotional Assets

- MP4 video bumper
- Promotional posters—full-color, 8.5x11 and 11x17 (all files are JPG and CMYK)
- JPG bulletin inserts
- PDF bulletin inserts (data fields provided for pre-printing custom information)
- Sticker sheets (1 generic and 1 designed to work with Avery sticker sheet #22805)
- Email headers
- Social-media images
- Printer-ready T-shirt files—full-color & 1-color logo
- Animated GIF to use for online promotion or website



Custom-Designed Graphics for Promotional and Teaching Purposes

Each LIVE Message Series comes with a wide variety of teaching and promotional graphics. From social media to printed posters and handouts, the LIVE Message Series will have you looking like a pro.

Which of the things you listed is most important to you?

How have you paid a “cost” in any of these areas to follow Jesus?

If you haven’t had to pay a cost, why is that?





Custom-Designed Graphics for Promotional and Teaching Purposes

From your computer to your printer, LIVE graphics can be applied to posters, T-shirts, stickers, and more!

