

## CONVENIENCE KILLS COMMITMENT

### PRECEPT

#### MATTHEW 7: 13-14

<sup>13</sup> Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

### PROMISE

Who doesn't want convenience? Convenience is helpful when it makes us more efficient and does not hinder our growth or commitment to better things. However, not all convenience is good; many are deceiving and can lead to destruction and harm. When hardship arises, we quickly choose convenience over commitment. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." We most of the time think that living conveniently is the way to life, but Jesus says the opposite. What kind of road leads to life? Narrow, and that represents hardships, sacrifices, inconvenience, and self-denial. Eventually, you will reap your harvest, and it is the sweetest reward! The best reward comes only when you have worked hard for it and finished it, no matter what it takes! Jesus made the road narrow so we will learn how to depend on Him because, truth be told, when we experience convenience, we get too busy with the happy stuff and tend to lose our commitment to our prayer life, Bible reading, our life group, and Sunday services. It's why the narrow road is better than the wide road, not because we want trials in life but because our relationship with Jesus deepens, which leads to eternal life. Luke 9:23 tells, "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" Taking up their cross means living in obedience to God, even if it costs us sacrifices, daily. The cost of following Jesus is painful, but it's a good pain because it will lead to a wonderful, transformed life.

**KNOW WHAT YOU LOVE.** Stay committed to the narrow road till the end, even if it's inconvenient! No turning back!

**BE CONSISTENT.** Start scheduling a specific time to build consistency, which eventually leads to commitment — showing reliability and stability.

**FOCUS YOUR EYES, JESUS.** Matthew 11:28 & 30 says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." He is the only one who can calm the storm, deliver us from our uncontrollable adversities, and who loves us not because of our performance, but because of who we are. Jesus loves us so much that he will do anything to help us reach the finish goal of the narrow road. Commitment can be tiring, but don't give up. The solution is not to quit but to find rest in Jesus. Stop doing things in your own way and thinking, take His yoke, and your hardships will turn into convenience.

### PRACTICE

1. **Convenience.** What is one convenience you would be willing to give up to live a more purpose-driven life?

2. **Narrow road.** How do you stay committed, even if it's inconvenient? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

### PRAYER

#### I. Church

- May God bless us with unity and harmony, that we may work together as a community

#### II. Circles

- Pray for the Manalo couple as they continue to lead our young pros and youth to God.

#### III. West Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Oliveros, Fabregas and Padilla.

#### IV. South Life Groups

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups.

#### V. North Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo, Ico and Imperial.

#### VI. East Life Groups

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo and Torres.

#### VII. Community

- Pray for safety and may His presence and love be felt in our families and communities.