

Risk

1. All of us take certain risks in life, a time and situation where we could lose or gain something that is important to us. These risks may involve relationships with people, money, recreation and education or a career path. Give an example of risk in each of these areas.
2. What risks have you taken? How did you decide to take the risk? What was the outcome?
3. There is a great risk when someone acts in a way that is against the cultural norm. For example, in the days of the early church, the followers of Jesus spoke boldly of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their message angered Jews, who did not accept Jesus as their Messiah/Deliverer. The Greeks, who worshiped many gods, felt that Jesus threatened their way of life. Both groups killed Christians. To become a Christian meant taking a huge risk. It meant rejection from your own family, neighbors, and friends. It might have meant loss of income and work. It meant isolation from your culture. Jesus himself warned his disciples about this. As you read, keep in mind the word, "cross," is a symbol of rejection. Matthew 10:37 "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."
Summarize what Jesus is saying in your own words.
What is the risk in following Jesus nowadays?
What is the reward in following Jesus?
4. The painting shows Saint Paul in prison. He was in prison as a result of telling others about Jesus. What causes people to take risks that put their own life in peril?
Can you think of current examples of people like this?
Draw a chart with a risk you are considering, and the possible losses or gains.



Rembrandt van Rijn.
St. Paul in Prison, c. 1627. Oil on panel,
72.8 x 60.2 cm. Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart,
Germany.

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