

# What's Next? Counting the Cost

**Luke 14:25–33**

“Whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple...  
Suppose one of you wants to build a tower—won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost?”

Jesus calls us to pause, discern, and surrender. When we build, we count the cost. When we go to battle, we weigh our strength. When our salt loses its flavor, we ask how it might be renewed.

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## Why Pause SOAR?

### An Invitation from Jesus

For over 23 years, SOAR in Central Canada has introduced thousands of people to Jesus, His gospel, and His mission. It has been a fruitful tree—training disciples, forming ministry partnerships, and igniting hearts for prayer and compassion.

Yet in this season, we sense Jesus’ invitation to pause.

At Take Flight retreats and through prayer and intercession, God has given us images of *new wine and new wineskins*—a call to something lighter, more mobile, and more effective in launching multiplication movements.

As Carol and I (Lloyd) transition into broader Multiply training roles, it has become clear that SOAR leadership needs to be transferred and renewed. Derek Parenteau affirmed this discernment, inviting us to consider a one-year pause—both to rest and to count the costs.

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## Counting the Costs

Pausing SOAR is not easy. After 23 years, momentum alone can keep it moving. Yet discernment requires courage to stop, rest, and listen before continuing.

### 1. People and Time

Securing volunteers for all the essential roles has become increasingly difficult. As volunteer numbers decline, staff and key leaders are stretched beyond capacity. A pause would allow

energy to be redirected toward the *Wonder and Invention* spaces of leadership—dreaming, listening, and reimagining mission training for a new season.

## **2. Fruit and Health**

The tree of SOAR has produced much good fruit: lives transformed, churches mobilized, partnerships formed, baptisms celebrated. But in recent seasons, we've also seen signs of strain—team conflicts, overwork, and relational challenges. Like a fruitful tree in need of sabbath, SOAR needs time for its roots to rest and the soil to be renewed.

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# **Challenges to Face Together**

## **1. Staff Unity and Discernment**

We have heard from the Lord together to “pause”. To say it another way, we have not heard a clear invitation from Jesus to facilitate SOAR 26 as a Multiply staff team. Our desire is to share this conviction, not impose it upon our partner churches or ministries. So, if you are clearly hearing from Jesus to engage in missional training and ministry this winter, we have ears to listen. We also commit to do our best to help you and your church find a modality other than SOAR to respond by faith to that invitation.

## **2. Communication with Constituency**

We need to speak with *clarity, honesty, and grace*—to explain the *why, what, how, when, and who* of this decision. Transparency and integrity will build trust, even as we acknowledge challenges. Please ask questions, and we will do our best to answer faithfully.

## **3. Commitment to Renewal**

A pause is not the end. It is a sabbath for renewal. We commit to use this year to listen, learn, and dream with Jesus about what's next—whether SOAR returns in a new form or gives birth to something even better suited to multiply disciples and equip the church for mission. Jesus' heart is for his lost sheep, and that is our missional imperative. We are committed to making disciples that make disciples, that the lost may know Jesus.

## **4. Communication with Ministry Partners**

We will inform ministry partners as soon as possible—especially those who normally host or serve with SOAR teams—so they can plan accordingly. We will also ask our partners, if there are ways we can assist them in pivoting, if they are counting on SOAR participants as key volunteers this winter.

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## The Invitation Forward

We believe this pause is not a retreat, but an act of faith.

It's a season to let the ground rest, to listen to the Spirit, and to prepare for new growth.

"Salt is good if it retains its saltiness."

May SOAR be renewed in flavor and purpose—  
refreshed, refocused, and ready for whatever new expression of mission Jesus  
leads us into next.