



The Cross Changes Everything!

Week of September 27, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Until we live denying self, we live denying Christ. Stay in the fight to carry your cross!

Read Matthew 16:21-27

Read Colossians 1:19-20

The cross is the pivot-point of all human history; without the cross there is no story of Jesus. Everything he is, everything we are, revolves around the fact that Jesus has died on the cross for our salvation. We can only save our life by losing it, and in that we must realize the cross changes everything. It is not an ornament or a decoration, but a true, life-changing, salvation-giving event. Without the cross, the church has no power or purpose; and neither do we. So we are to deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow after Jesus. Dying to self is living in Christ.

Challenge: Own the areas and relationships for which you've laid down your cross; accept Christ's forgiveness and hope. Then take up your cross and follow hard after Jesus.

Pray

Jesus, you willingly took up the cross for me. You suffered and died so I can have a relationship with you. Jesus, empower me to deny myself and pick up that cross so I can live in you.

#StayInTheFightatSR

Getting Started

- Share the story about how you met your spouse or your best friend.
- Talk about what the story of Jesus would be without the cross.

Listening Deeply

1. What do you think it will be like when Jesus comes again?
2. Why is the cross such a pivotal and important part of our relationship with Jesus?
3. Pastor Drew said if we are not living denying ourselves, then we are living in denial of Jesus. What does this mean?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:31 and Galatians 2:20. Explain those verses as if you were explaining them to a pre-Christian in the context of the quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."
5. Jesus calls us to carry our cross and follow him; explain the concept of taking up the cross—what does it look like?
6. Describe the personal costs of carrying the cross; are the costs worth the reward? Is there a reward?
7. What distracts you from carrying your cross?

Living Wide in Jesus

We are living in a time when it is more important than ever to put Jesus first in our lives. Jesus has pursued you, he has called you, and he wants you to walk beside him in the purpose he has designed for you. When you live focusing on your needs, your rights, your circumstances, your hurts, and your challenges, you limit what God can do in your life through Jesus. If you live your life focused only on your life, you are going to miss the things of God. So this week, die to yourself. Then pick up your cross and truly live!

Use the space on the back of this page to write down the things that distract you from your cross. Then write a prayer of dying to these these so you can truly live in Jesus.