

Pastor Jason Huffman

12/28/2025

Message Title: 2026 Word of the Year

Big Idea: Following Jesus is not always comfortable.

1. Be uncomfortable as needed.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

II Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

II Corinthians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2. Comfort is not king.

Matthew 16: 21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. **22** But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.

3. To follow Christ means a cross.

25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **26** And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? **27** For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

LIFE Group Guide:

General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group’s needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

1. What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
2. Why do you think so many people put such a high value on comfort?
3. When you think of being uncomfortable spiritually, what does that look like for you?
4. Can you think of a situation in your Christian life that was uncomfortable at first, but God used it in a positive way?
5. How can you practice losing your life for Christ and putting others above you like Jesus did right now?