



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

City Group Icebreaker: *Questions to Get You Thinking*

Do you struggle with staying committed to something, like a diet, workout regimen, or maybe a bible reading plan? Here's some other things to think about. What (or who) are you willing to make sacrifices for? Better yet, what are you willing to die for? Some people are willing to die for their country, while others are willing to die (or make sacrifices) for their family or friends. Spend some time in your group asking one another what cause is worth making sacrifices or even dying for. In today's passage, Christ made it clear that following him means denying what the world tells us we need and suffering daily for the mission of God.

Key Scriptures: Luke 9:23-26

The Essential Questions: By narrowing the focus on your work to questions such as these, you'll be able to appropriate a healthy spiritual vision for how your faith and family intersect.

- We hear the language "follower of Jesus" all the time, but what does it mean to be a disciple, or apprentice, of the rabbi from Nazareth?
- Do you struggle with denying yourself and being willing to suffer for the sake of Christ? What does "denying self" and "taking up your cross daily" look like in your own life?
- What areas of life, or temptations, are keeping you from being a committed follower? What do you need help/encouragement/accountability with in your life to be a better follower?
- Are there times when you are ashamed of being a follower of Christ? If so, when and why?
- How can your group encourage one another to stay committed to a life of self-denial and suffering?

Move Up. Connect to Christ

- How have you been with Jesus this week?

Move Out. Connect to Culture.

- How have you tried to be like Jesus this week?

Move In. Connect Culture to Christ.

- When we choose to follow Jesus, we choose sacrifice over selfishness, the cross over comfort, and God's mission over maintaining the status quo. Have you done what Jesus did this week?

What our Pastor(s) want you to:

- **KNOW:** In the kingdom of God, the way to true life is death, the way to true freedom is surrendering, and the way to lasting joy is laying down your rights.
- **EXPERIENCE:** True life, true freedom and lasting joy.
- **DO:** If we want to live with power and provision in the kingdom of God, we must follow the example of Jesus in laying down our lives for the glory and plan of God.

Why This Matters: If part of Jesus' mission on earth is to be rejected and killed by his own people, those who follow him must expect the same treatment. But beyond the suffering there is glory in the kingdom of God.