

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Jesus Over Self

Description: One of Jesus' favorite tools for explaining His mission was to teach using parables—short stories that packed as much punch as they did a point. In Matthew 13:45-46, Jesus teaches the parable of a man who sold everything he owned to possess a single pearl of surpassing value and beauty. The point, is that Jesus is the pearl. The punch, is that we must be willing to sell all we have to belong to Jesus, and for Jesus to belong to us. The question is, are we willing?

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: Jesus Over Everything

Main Text: Luke 9:23-27

Supporting Texts: Jeremiah 9:24a, Romans 8:38-39,

Mathew 28:20

Message Outline:

Dying to Self is Ongoing

— Jesus said to take up our cross “daily”

Dying to Self is Worth the Cost

— Whatever we give up for Jesus pales in comparison to knowing Him

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with

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thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week's message:

1. In a world dominated by the Roman empire, how do you think the original audience felt about Jesus telling them they should “take up their cross”?
2. Why is “dying to self” something that needs to take place every day on an ongoing basis?

General questions:

3. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
4. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
5. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
6. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?