

LifeGroup Study Sheet
Oct 30th, 2022 – The Journey

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Pastor Jeff started his sermon with an illustration with breaking glow sticks and the gel from the glow sticks got in his eyes. It caused his vision to be blurry for the rest of the evening. Jesus is reminding not only the blind man, but His disciples that our vision, spiritually speaking, can become blurry if we lose sight of Jesus' mission. Talk about how this illustration relates to your life this week.

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 8:35-36. Pastor Jeff used the phrase "following Jesus is about a death march." Obviously, those are strong words and makes us feel uncomfortable. How does this idea relate to what Jesus is saying in these verses? How are you "denying" or "dying" to yourself in your walk with Jesus? What are practical ways that you are "taking up" your cross?

Question 2: Read Ephesians 2:1-2, John 3:3-7, Galatians 5:16-18. To understand the miracle that has happened in the life of every Christ follower is crucial for our vision while on this journey. Ephesians says that literally every human heart was dead spiritually before meeting Jesus. John 3 talks about the need to be spiritually born again into a new life. Galatians 5 speaks about the battle between the desires of your flesh and walking in the Spirit. Pastor Jeff said, the life of a believer is now obeying the Spirit of God, not the desires of your flesh. How has that looked in your life this week? What practical ways do you obey the Spirit? How are you tempted into the desires of the flesh? Do you recognize this conflict in your life?

Question 3: Read Mark 8:35-36. Jesus is showing us the true cost of what it means to follow Him. Saving your life, is the opposite of denying yourself. Losing your life for Jesus' sake is about making your life no longer about your self-centered desires/passions. One commentator puts it this way, "self-denial of yourself means letting go of self-determination." **Read Psalm 49:6-8.** How do you see this in your own life? What are practical ways you lose your life for Jesus' sake? Have I been "playing it safe?"

Question 4: Read Mark 8:37-38. These words are a sobering reality. What can a man give in return for his soul? Does your life have an unashamed boldness when it comes to your relationship with Jesus? **Read Romans 1:16.** The fear we are faced with about standing on Jesus' words is that we would be rejected, misunderstood, or mistreated because of them. But Jesus is asking our hearts a deeper question when challenged with these words – “whose applause or acclaim are you living for?” This ultimately comes back to having a clear vision of who you're following – yourself or Jesus.

Taking it Home

Reflect on **Matthew 25:21-23**

How is your life representing the “talents” God has given you and you producing something out of those to give back to God?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?