



LIFEGROUPS

StudyGuide

Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

“Dying to Live”

Points from Sunday’s Message

1. The invitation of Christ is open to all, but the cost is non-negotiable.
2. The non-negotiable cost is high, but the return is incalculable.
3. The shame and cost of denying Christ will be far greater when He returns.
4. The glory and gain of the kingdom are impossible without the cross.

Key Verse:

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”

— Luke 9:23

Discussion Questions:

1. **What stands out most to you in Jesus’ call to “deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow me”?**

Questions: Jesus’ invitation is open to everyone, but the cost is non-negotiable. What part of this command feels most challenging or surprising to you? Why do you think Jesus makes the call to follow Him so radical and clear?

Further Reading: Luke 9:23–24, Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:11

2. **Our culture emphasizes “find yourself” and “express yourself,” but Jesus calls us to deny ourselves.**

Questions: Pastor Miles pointed out that self-preservation and self-exaltation come naturally to us. Where do you see the “self-first” mindset in our culture today? In what ways do you see that mindset showing up in your own life?

Further Reading: Philippians 2:3–8, Matthew 16:24–26

3. Jesus says that trying to save your life ultimately leads to losing it.

Questions: What do you think it means practically to “lose your life for Jesus’ sake”? Why do you think Jesus frames discipleship as a paradox—loss that leads to gain?

Further Reading: John 12:24–26, Philippians 3:7–8

4. Jesus says we must take up our cross daily.

Questions: Why do you think Luke specifically includes the word *daily*? What are some everyday ways Christians today can “take up their cross”? Examples might include forgiving someone, serving others sacrificially, prioritizing Christ over comfort, or obeying God when it costs something.

Further Reading: Romans 12:1–2, Colossians 3:1–10

5. The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28–36) shows Jesus’ glory, but it happens after Jesus talks about the cross.

Questions: Why do you think Luke places these two events together? What does this teach us about the relationship between **suffering, sacrifice, and glory** in the Christian life?

Further Reading: Romans 8:17–18, 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

6. Pastor Miles said we often want “the glory without the cross.”

Question: Where are we tempted to want the benefits of following Jesus without the cost? What is one specific area this week where you sense Jesus calling you to surrender something to follow Him more closely?

If someone asked you this week, “Why is Jesus worth giving your life to?”—how would you answer?

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.