

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 16:25a** *The price of following Jesus*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *In what ways do we try to save our lives?*
2. *What can you do to find your cross?*

Prayer Focus Redeemer, you taught that the cost of being your disciple isn't measured by suffering, but by our choice to live according to your way, every day, no matter what. Help us us to die to our old ways, and live a life in your footsteps.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 16:25b** *For Jesus' sake*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What role does trust play in living the life of a follower?*
2. *Is there someplace that you feel your cross is leading you? How will you respond?*

Prayer Focus God of abundant life, you showed us that death is not the final word and that life reaches beyond what we can see, even beyond death. Show us the peace, rest, joy to be found in walking with you, carrying our own cross. Let us lose our lives so we can be found in you.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 16:26** *What would you trade for your life?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How might your priorities change if you choose to pick up your cross?*
2. *Give thanks that God knows you and wants you to carry out God's plan for the world.*

Prayer Focus Giver of all, thank you for our lives, which are a gift from you, given in love. We know that giving up our handmade gods won't always be easy, but for this day, with your help, we choose the real God and the way to abundant, eternal life.

True Cost of Discipleship

Pastor's message: Acts 19:23-26 & Matthew 16:24-26

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *How do you handle a sudden change of plans?*

Opening Praye Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Acts 19:23-26 & Matthew 16:24-26**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

TRUE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP *September 3, 2023*

Monday

Read: Acts 19:23-26 *Paul's message*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did the workmen fear what Paul was saying?*
2. *What are some "gods made with hands" that you see in our world?*

Prayer Focus We want to stay safe and comfortable, Teacher, and that's easiest to do when we follow the ways of the world. But easy isn't always better. We need to remove the handmade gods that can't do a thing for us or anyone else. We need you.

Tuesday

Read: Matthew 16:24 *How to be a follower*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What does the cross mean to you?*
2. *What does it mean to take up your cross, rather than Jesus' cross?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, you accepted your cross and came through death, resurrected to a new life. Teach us how to listen and watch and see what our cross is to be. Guide us to where that cross leads.