

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of February 20-26, 2022

“WHO IS DRIVING?”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Share as a group a couple things you are afraid of (e.g. insects, snakes, losing job, not getting married, sharing the gospel, etc.)

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 16:21-28

1. When you read the scenario of this passage, do you think Peter was wrong for not wanting Jesus to die? What do you learn about Peter here?
2. Discuss a time when you wanted God to act one way and he didn't meet your expectations. When was the last time you active like Peter here? In what way have you doubted God's plan or tried to force your own way instead of following God's leading?
3. When you think about something you are afraid of, in what ways does it control your thoughts, actions and decisions?
4. What does it mean to “come after” Jesus in Matthew 16:24? Do all who go to church “come after” Jesus? What does it mean to deny yourself? What does it mean to take up your cross?
5. Jesus tells us that we must deny self and take up our cross if we are to follow him, which means that we must stop trusting in ourselves. Have you ever said to yourself, “I thought everything was all up to me. It never even occurred to me to ask God what he wanted. I just thought about what I was good at and what seemed right to me, and I let that lead me.” How close or far is your life like that today?
6. The key that unlocks the meaning of Jesus' words about denying self and taking up one's cross is to see this as an expression of love. Jesus has loved us by doing these very things, and he now calls us to follow him. How has Jesus called you to love in this way? How does this passage change your view success?

7. (Optional) Matthew 16:25 seems to be a paradox. The person who wants to save his life must lose it. The person who loses his life for Jesus' sake will find it. How do you resolve this paradox?

8. NEXT STEPS

- I will deny myself and surrender my agenda to God.
- I will take up my cross daily.
- I will follow Christ and trust him.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a growing life of surrender to Jesus.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE.

February 21	Matthew 22
February 22	Matthew 23
February 23	Matthew 24
February 24	Matthew 25
February 25	Matthew 26
February 26	Matthew 27
February 27	Matthew 28