

Life Group Discussion Guide

Understanding True Discipleship

Pick Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Key Scripture: Luke 9:23

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Welcome

Ask each person to answer:

What is one habit or discipline that has had a significant positive impact on your life?

OR

Who has influenced your spiritual journey the most, and why?

Opening Prayer (2 Minutes)

Invite someone to pray and ask God to open hearts, deepen discipleship, and help the group hear His voice through His Word.

Read the Scripture Together

Read Luke 9:23 aloud.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Sermon Discussion

1. What Is a Disciple?

The sermon reminded us that a disciple is someone who learns from Jesus, obeys Jesus, becomes like Jesus, and follows Jesus wherever He leads.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define discipleship in your own words?
1. What is the difference between believing in Jesus and following Jesus?
1. Why do you think Jesus emphasized commitment and surrender when calling people to follow Him?

1. In what areas of your life is Jesus currently shaping you to become more like Him?

Key Takeaway

Discipleship is not simply knowing about Jesus. It is becoming like Jesus through daily obedience.

2. The Meaning of Cross-Bearing

The sermon taught that cross-bearing is choosing God's will over our own and surrendering our plans, ambitions, desires, and comfort to Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "take up your cross"?

1. Why is surrender often difficult?

1. Which statement challenges you most today?

- God's plans over my plans
- God's purpose over my comfort
- God's Kingdom over my ambitions

- God's glory over my desires

1. How can we tell the difference between following Jesus and asking Jesus to follow our plans?

Key Takeaway

The cross is where self dies and Christ reigns.

3. Daily Commitment

Jesus calls us to take up our cross daily, not occasionally.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is discipleship described as a lifestyle rather than an event?

1. What daily choices help us follow Christ faithfully?

1. Which of these daily choices do you find most challenging?

- Obedience over compromise

- Faith over fear

- Humility over pride

- Service over selfishness
- Holiness over convenience

1. What practical step could help you follow Jesus more intentionally this week?

Key Takeaway

Every day offers a new opportunity to choose Christ above self.

The Four Habits of a Disciple

The sermon highlighted four essential habits that help disciples grow spiritually.

4. Habit One: God's Word

Read

John 8:31

Discussion Questions

1. How regularly do you spend time reading Scripture?

1. What challenges make it difficult to stay consistent?
1. How has God recently spoken to you through His Word?
1. What practical changes could help you engage more deeply with Scripture?

Personal Reflection

What do you sense God saying to you through His Word right now?

5. Habit Two: Prayer

Read

John 15:7-8 and Luke 22:42

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe your current prayer life?
1. What is the difference between asking God to bless our plans and surrendering to His plans?
1. Why is prayer essential for carrying our cross?

1. What area of your life needs greater surrender to God?

Personal Reflection

What is one prayer you need to change from "my will" to "Your will"?

6. Habit Three: Giving

Read

2 Corinthians 9:7

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus spoke so often about money and generosity?
1. What does generous living reveal about our hearts?
1. How can giving become an act of worship rather than an obligation?
1. Besides finances, what resources can we give to God's Kingdom?

Personal Reflection

How is God calling you to grow in generosity?

7. Habit Four: Fellowship

Read

John 13:35 and Acts 2:42

Discussion Questions

1. Why is Christian community important for spiritual growth?
1. How has fellowship helped you remain faithful in difficult seasons?
1. What prevents believers from living in authentic community?
1. How can our Life Group become a stronger source of encouragement and accountability?

Personal Reflection

Who in your life might need encouragement, support, or prayer this week?

The Disciple's Cross

The sermon described discipleship through two relationships:

Vertical Relationship with God

- God's Word
- Prayer

Horizontal Relationship with Others

- Giving
- Fellowship

Group Discussion

1. Which of these four areas is strongest in your life?
1. Which area needs the most growth?
1. How do these four habits help us keep Jesus first in our lives?

Application Challenge

During the coming week, choose **one practical action** in each area:

Word

Prayer

Giving

Fellowship

Prayer Time

Break into pairs or small groups and pray for:

- Greater surrender to Christ
- Strength to carry our cross daily

- A deeper hunger for God's Word
- A stronger prayer life
- Generous hearts
- Meaningful Christian fellowship
- Specific personal needs within the group

Closing Challenge

Jesus did not call us to be admirers. He called us to be disciples. This week, ask yourself every day: "**Am I following Jesus, or am I asking Jesus to follow me?**"

Memory Verse: Luke 9:23