



COMMUNITY GUIDE

May 18th, 2025



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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Following Jesus is not just about eternal life, but about life here and now.

HEAD CHANGE: Discipleship requires denying ourselves and taking up our cross daily.

HEART CHANGE: Yielding to Jesus is more about surrender than trying harder.

LIFE CHANGE: Becoming more like Jesus is ultimately for the sake of others.

OVERVIEW

In our exploration of Luke 9, we encounter a profound challenge to our understanding of discipleship. Jesus asks His followers a pivotal question: 'Who do you say I am?' This moment marks a transition from simply following Jesus to truly understanding the cost of discipleship. We're reminded that knowing Christ isn't just about intellectual assent, but about a deepening surrender to His lordship. The passage emphasizes that to follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. This isn't about trying harder, but about yielding our lives to Christ. We're encouraged to hold the beauty of Jesus before us, to take small steps of obedience, and to remember that our spiritual formation is ultimately for the sake of others. As we contemplate this, we're challenged to consider: What areas of our lives are we still holding back from God? How can we live as an authentic Christian counterculture that draws others to Christ?

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual."

Colossians 1:9-10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus' patient approach to discipleship in John 1 and Luke 9 challenge our modern expectations of spiritual growth and evangelism?
2. In what ways might our theology be shaping our worship, mission, and ethics without us fully realizing it?
3. How can we practically apply the concept of 'dying to self' in our daily lives without falling into the trap of just trying harder through willpower?
4. What might be your 'sword' that you're hesitant to fully surrender to Jesus, and how could yielding that area transform your spiritual life?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, help us to truly understand the cost and beauty of discipleship. Give us the courage to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow You. May our lives increasingly reflect Your character and draw others to You.
Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!