

ALL IN



Sermon Outline

Key verses

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

How to deny yourself

1. Ask God to search your heart

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Psalms 139:23

2. Live with open hands

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Mark 10:21

3. Don't look back

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62

DENY YOURSELF

APRIL 7
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

Jesus often gives commands that seem backwards from anything we hear elsewhere in the world around us. Jesus says that to be his disciples, we must deny ourselves. This doesn't mean that we mope around in life having no fun. Instead, Jesus is calling us to give up our old ways of doing things and enter into the abundant life of Christ. We are invited to go all in on following Jesus!

Ice breakers

- Just for fun, before I die, I'd like to _____
- What do you hope is said about you at your funeral?
- What food do you have a craving for today?

Dig Deeper

- What stood out to you from the sermon?
- Is denying yourself a popular message in our culture today?
- Are you surprised to hear these words of Jesus, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and daily follow me?" This appears in Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, and Luke 9:23.
- What is your reaction to these words from Jesus to deny yourself?
- Read Romans 14:8. How does the Holy Spirit play a role in helping us deny ourselves as we follow Jesus?
- Has there been a time in your life that you felt especially close to Jesus? What was it? Is being close to the Lord important to you?

Closing

No matter what it costs you to follow Jesus, it is worth it! Because his kingdom and his ways are eternal and forever. Gaining the whole world and forfeiting your soul is a foolish decision. When Jesus returns and you see his face, you will be filled with an endless joy in his presence. Nobody will wish they had kept back more for themselves. Nobody.