

ALL IN



Sermon Outline

Key verse

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

**Salvation is free,
but discipleship will cost you
your life**

1. Taking up your cross is painful
2. Taking up your cross is lonely

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Galatians 6:14

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

APRIL 14
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

Jesus calls us to take up our cross. That means that the road ahead will be difficult at times. Will you walk away when it gets too tough? Or will you take up your cross as Jesus did?

Ice breaker

- What challenge did you face this week?
- What is your favorite part about spring in Ohio?

Dig Deeper

- What stood out to you from the sermon?
- What does it mean to you to "take up your cross and follow Jesus?"
- How has your life changed since you encountered Christ?
- What have you surrendered, suffered, or sacrificed for Christ lately?
- What have you lost in deciding to follow Christ? What have you gained?
- Is there anything you are not willing to lose to follow Christ? Why must we be willing to lose everything?
- What do you need to sacrifice to focus more on the mission?
- Why isn't the decision to carry your cross a one-time decision? Why does it have to be made daily?
- Have you ever questioned a decision you made that you felt God was calling you to make? Explain.
- Once we have decided to "take up our cross" does it make our life easier? Does it make it harder?
- What is the danger in thinking I shouldn't have struggles since I am following God?
- What are some of the struggles Bible characters had while following God?
- How is discipleship a delight?

Closing prayer

Lord, give us the strength to carry our crosses, to follow in your footsteps, and to persevere when things get difficult. Thank you for leading the way and for giving your life so that we can have life. In Jesus' name. Amen.