



Part 1 | Identify

Matthew 16:24-28

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Part 1 | Identity

Matthew 16:24-28

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

Small Group Conversation Guide

Identity / Matthew 16:21-28

Warm-up: Share something that you did that involved personal sacrifice. What's something that you worked too hard to learn or earn?

Read: Matthew 16:21-28

In this passage, Jesus reveals to his disciples that his plan to save the world is involves His death on the cross (and resurrection). He then declares that anyone who follows him must also be willing to take up their cross - or die to self - in order to live in Him.

1. Peter took issue with Jesus saying he would have to suffer and die. Why do you think he struggled with the idea that Jesus had to die in order for his mission to be accomplished?
2. How does the line 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me.' show Jesus' human struggle with what he must do.
3. Some would say the call to 'take up your cross and follow Jesus' is one of the most challenging of Jesus' teachings. How does it challenge you at this point in your journey with Jesus?
4. What are ways we could try to 'save our life' that will eventually end in us losing it?
5. What appeal does Jesus make for our surrender to him? Why is it important we keep 'the reward' in mind?
6. Dallas Willard said, "Grace is not opposed to effort, it's opposed to earning." How does God's grace fit in with this call to take up our cross and follow Jesus?
7. What are things in your life that might vie for your identity other than Jesus?
8. How can we support each other in community to be 'all-in' with Jesus?

Prayer: How can we pray for each other this week?

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