



QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, GROUP AND CLASS DISCUSSION

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A Picasso found in an attic, a precious gem found in a forgotten chest or a rare collectible found in a shoebox — news stories like these capture our attention.

Have you ever found something of incredible value? What was it? How did you react? Who did you tell?

All of the earthly things we find of great value are worthless in comparison with the life we find in Christ.

» READ Matthew 16:24-26

An important process for our biblical discipleship occurs as we deny ourselves and pursue daily decisions of self-denial. Biblical disciples are never too mature to neglect this truth that Jesus taught. As we pursue daily self-denial and follow Jesus, we experience greater levels of spiritual maturity.

Describe an example of what Matthew meant when he wrote:

*“For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”
(Matthew 16:25).*

Why might it be difficult for many Christians to embrace the following two concepts?

- » Deny ourselves (Luke 9:23 — Luke includes the word “daily”)
- » Lose our lives for Christ’s sake

Why do you think that Jesus taught this to His disciples?

WHERE DO I START IN LOSING MY LIFE FOR CHRIST’S SAKE?

» READ Romans 12:1-2

Biblical disciples, because of the mercy of God, are called to sacrificial living. This sacrificial living, by the nature of the concept of sacrifice, means dying to self. From that position of sacrifice comes the ability to worship, live holy lives, renew our minds, stand against the world’s conformity and discern what the will of God is.



How did the following people demonstrate “losing their life” in this temporal world, thereby demonstrating sacrificial living? What temporal thing did each sacrifice (die to) in order to serve God and serve His eternal purposes?

- » Noah (Genesis 6:12-22)
- » Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4)
- » Ruth (Ruth 1:6-18)

What might God be asking you to sacrifice (die to) in order to live a life that counts for eternity?

PRAYER FOCUS:

Our persecuted brothers and sisters living in hostile areas and restricted nations, like Sabina, make a daily choice to live for Christ. These daily choices of obedience result in them losing their own lives by setting aside desires, comfort and safety in this world in order to find a life that counts for eternity.

Pray that persecuted Christians, like Sabina, who lose their own lives for Christ’s sake will...

- ...present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
- ...not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of their minds.
- ...discern the will of God in all things.
- ...display love and forgiveness even to those who persecute them in order to win them to Christ.
- ...overcome evil with good.

Pray that each of us will imitate our persecuted Christian family as they imitate Christ.

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