



THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | FOLLOW

TITLE: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

SCRIPTURE: MARK 8:27-38

One Thing Follow Up

“Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.” Dallas Willard. It’s not about becoming the best rule keepers in town.

Q. Why are rules good, but box checking not?

Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture.

Series Review

We are continuing our series called “Follow”. We will use this series to help us to understand what it means to not only follow Jesus, but to be a true disciple. This series should help us to reexamine what it means to follow Jesus and commit to wherever it leads and whatever it costs.

Review the Message

We often expect faith to be about watching Jesus, but Jesus calls us into a place of dangerous trust.

Q. What does the second half of this statement mean for our lives?

Read Mark 8:27-28

Jesus throws a pop quiz at the disciples about his identity.

Q. Who does the world say that Jesus is? Why?

Q. Who do you say he is?

Q. Why are the answers to the above questions important?

Mark 8:29-30

Jesus announced his identity in a place where to the place where people tried to manipulate or win the favor of gods.

Q. Why was Peter’s answer both right and wrong at the same time?

Q. Share a time when you might have misunderstood who Jesus was?

Q. What is the Messianic secret and why is it important that the disciples not share Jesus' identity?

Read Mark 8:31-33

Jesus tells the disciples that they have to drop their expectations, so that they can come to a better understanding of Jesus' identity.

Q. What expectations have you had to drop concerning Jesus?

Q. Share a time when you allowed your expectations to affect your view of Jesus.

Jesus explains that we have to drop our expectations of him, but we also have to drop our expectations of comfort.

Read 8:34-37

Q. How do these verses challenge you?

Q. How have you "denied yourself" to be a disciple, if you have?

Q. What does it mean to take up your cross?

Sacrifice is something Jesus chose and he is asking us to make the same choice.

Jesus is asking us to abandon our expectations and comfort and replace them with a cross.

Q. Share, if you can, how you have taken up your cross as a disciple of Jesus.

Read Mark 8:38


JESUS WASN'T ASHAMED OF YOU WHILE HE HUNG ON THE CROSS!

Q. How do our daily decisions show our love and obedience to Jesus?

Q. Where in your life do you need to say, "Not my will, but yours?"

Q. When is the last time your faith in Jesus required you to sacrifice anything significant?

Q. Where is Jesus calling you to courageously follow him?



Maybe it's time we focus on being the kind of person whose heart is so in line with the heart of God that we focus on the real issues.

**Living It Out
Application**

We must remember that the story doesn't terminate at the cross.

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

Prayer:

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?