



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Spring Quarter - Lesson 7 - Week of May 25, 2025

Lesson: DISCIPLESHIP LIVING

Bible Verses: Mark 8:31-38; Matthew 4:18-21; Luke 12:13-21; John 12:25

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What comes to your mind when you think about God?
2. What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

DISCUSSION

"When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, 'Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'" - Mark 8:34 NKJV

Discipleship: A call to live by Christ's standards rather than the standards of our world.

Reflection: It is easy to set lofty goals that are forgotten in the heat of the required work. Many people are champions in their minds, but far fewer pay the debt of grueling training and loneliness that precede glory. Think of a time when your involvement in an activity required significant discipline or sacrifice. What aspects of your life did this affect, and what did you learn about yourself in the process?

Situation: Read Mark 8:31-38. Leading up to Jesus' teaching in these passages, Peter had declared to the Lord in Mark 8:29, "You are the Messiah." This was followed by Jesus speaking of his execution by the elders, scribes, and chief priests (verses 31-33). The contrast left the disciples upset and confused. How could Christ die? The Messiah was expected to lead Israel into a new age of freedom and power. But Jesus made it clear their trust had to be focused on Him, not on the current popularity of the Messiah's mission.

Exploration:

1. According to Jesus, what is the cost of discipleship, and what is required?
2. How do some people react when they learn that being a true follower of Jesus is costly?
3. What does it mean to lose your life for Christ's sake?
4. What does it mean to gain the whole world?

Inspiration: The pull of power is greasy. Many Roman emperors knew that. But we are not to get lost in the pursuit of power. True discipleship requires that we focus on ensuring that our lives and actions mimic Christ's teachings. Remember Matthew 16:26: *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"*

Reaction:

1. In what ways are you trying to deny yourself and take up your cross?
2. Think of a time when you wanted to hide the fact that you were a Christian. What made you want to keep quiet?
3. What must you change to be a true disciple of Christ?
4. What is the difference between denying self and self-denial?

Four Characteristics of a True Disciple of Jesus.

1. Loves God above everything else (Mark 12:29-31).
2. Follows God's will (Hebrews 10:36).
3. Submits to God's word (James 4:7).
4. Embraces suffering (Romans 5:1-5).

Life Lesson: The challenge Jesus presented in the Gospels still interrupts our lives. Denying, losing, and dying are not the world's standards for successful living. We are trained to avoid such sacrifices; to look out for ourselves. But Jesus stands before us without apologizing and asks if there is anything we value more than Him? We may have difficulty answering that question, but only an honest answer will do.

Devotion: Father, you have given us such a great promise of salvation. Forgive us when we sometimes put more hope into the things of this world than in your great promises of heaven. Please help us know today what it means to deny ourselves and take up our crosses!

Journaling: In what ways are you living for yourself rather than for Christ? What do you plan to do about this situation?