



Small Group Discussion

The Week of:

Oct. 21, 2026

What's your life like:

If you could "copy and paste" one person's skill into your life, whose skill would you choose?

What are we talking about this week:

Main Point of Message:

- This is week one in our series Five Values to Live By. We are talking about the value of following Jesus. To be his followers, Jesus invites us to give up our own way, take up our cross, and follow him. We'll unpack each of these this week.

LEADERS: This is a decision message! Invite students to share if they chose to put their faith in Jesus tonight. CELEBRATE, ENCOURAGE, and PRAY for them. If they haven't already texted in their decision, get their name to your Pastor of Student Ministries so your team can follow up and provide resources.

Bible Verses • Matthew 16:24, Galatians 2:20, 1 John 2:6

Discussion Questions

1. Which part of Jesus' invitation stands out to you most: give up your own way, take up your cross, or follow him? Why?
2. What does it mean to "give up your own way"? How is this different than messages we get in our culture? Why is this difficult for us sometimes?
3. Jesus tells us to "take up our cross"? What did the cross represent in the Roman empire and what does that phrase mean for our lives today? Read what Paul says in Galatians 2:20. How does this connect?
4. Following Jesus can cost us comfort, popularity, time, or getting our way. What is a realistic example of that for someone in high school? Why might following him still be worth it?
5. Read and discuss the meaning of 1 John 2:6. How does this connect to what Jesus said in Matthew 16:24?
6. Discuss the difference between our initial decision to follow Jesus and the daily choice to follow him. Why do both matter?

Now what:

- Following Jesus is a daily choice. How do we know if we are actually following the way of Jesus? What are some ways we can learn his way and help each other know it and follow it?