

The King's Road: The Revelation of the King

Re: GROUP

The King's Road: The Call to Follow Christ

Matthew 16:21-28

Small Group Discussion Guide

Icebreaker

1. Have you ever started something without realizing how much it would cost or require?
2. Who is someone you've known that made significant sacrifices because they believed something was worth it?

Digging Into the Text

Read Matthew 16:21-28

I. The Path for Jesus (16:21-23)

Jesus' Mission

1. Why was it important that Jesus began telling His disciples about His coming suffering, death, and resurrection?
2. The sermon emphasized that Jesus **must** go to Jerusalem. What does this teach us about God's sovereign plan?
3. Why do you think the disciples struggled to accept what Jesus was telling them?

Peter's Response

4. Why did Peter rebuke Jesus?
5. What does Peter's response reveal about his expectations of the Messiah?
6. Have you ever found yourself wanting God to accomplish His purposes in a way that seemed more reasonable to you?

Jesus' Rebuke

7. Why did Jesus respond so strongly to Peter by saying, "Get behind me, Satan"?
8. Jesus said Peter had his mind on "the things of man" rather than "the things of God." What are some examples of each?
9. What practical steps help us keep our minds focused on God's purposes rather than merely earthly concerns?

II. The Path for Disciples (16:24-28)

Denying Yourself

10. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Let him deny himself"?
11. How is self-denial different from simply having self-discipline?
12. What are some modern examples of denying yourself for Christ's sake?

Taking Up Your Cross

13. What would Jesus' original audience have understood when He spoke about taking up a cross?
14. What does taking up your cross look like in everyday life?
15. Why is following Jesus impossible without surrender?

Losing Your Life to Find It

16. Jesus says whoever tries to save his life will lose it. What does that mean?
17. What are some ways people today try to "gain the whole world" at the expense of their souls?
18. Why is it so easy to value temporary success over eternal priorities?

Living with Eternity in View

19. How does remembering Christ's coming judgment affect the way we live today?
20. What does it look like to live with eternity as your primary perspective?

Personal Application

21. Is there an area of your life that you have struggled to fully surrender to Christ?
22. What "rights" or personal ambitions might Jesus be asking you to lay down?
23. What is one area where you are tempted to think more like Peter than like Jesus?
24. How does knowing that Jesus first walked the path of suffering encourage you to follow Him faithfully?
25. What is one practical way you can deny yourself and follow Christ more intentionally this week?

Closing Challenge

This week, ask God to reveal one area where you have been holding tightly to your own plans, preferences, or desires. Then intentionally surrender that area to Him, trusting that His path—even when it involves sacrifice—is always better than your own.

Prayer Time

Prayer Reflection

Before praying together, ask:

- Is there something I have been unwilling to surrender to Christ?
- Am I pursuing comfort more than obedience?
- How can I better keep my mind on "the things of God" this week?