

TALK IT OVER

Followers

BOTTOM LINE

Denying yourself is the key to life.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Did you deny yourself/give up anything for Lent? If so, what? What would be the hardest for long-term denial – beef or ice cream?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily:
newpointe.org/thedaily
- [Deny Yourself](#) by Louie Giglio
(6 min)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done."
Matthew 16:21-27 NIV

"It is so easy to reduce the idea of following Jesus to just a belief statement rather than a personal mission statement." 'This is what I believe' rather than 'This is how I live my life.'" – Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

What does it mean to reduce the idea of following Jesus to a belief statement rather than a personal mission statement? A disciple was actually an intern to a rabbi. They were to be with, learn from, and become like their leader. They ordered their lives around following him. How does that define our following? How do we do that? Jesus described following Him as choosing a narrow gate. How does following Jesus mean a narrow path? How is it positive? Jesus explained that Peter's objection to suffering was because he was focused on his own personal concerns. He wanted an easier way. How do personal concerns keep you from following? Self-denial is essential to following. It is taking up your cross – the death of one way of life to live another. Where can that be seen in your life? Where is self-denial impacting your following now? What are the blessings you are experiencing from following? Taking up your cross daily means it is present tense, moment by moment following. What does that look like for you right now? How are you being with Him? How are you learning from Him? How are you becoming like Him? What does it mean to you as Jesus' apprentice to lose your life to find it?

ACTION STEP

I choose to be a lifetime apprentice to Jesus. My prayer of surrender is ...
