



# STUDENTS

Grades 6-8

**Goal:** Students will understand that to truly follow Jesus you need to give up the right to lead yourself and have to let him to lead you instead.

## Verse:

**Matthew 16:13-16, 21-22, 24-26:** <sup>13</sup>When Jesus arrived in the villages of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “What are people saying about who the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>They replied, “Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>21-22</sup>Then Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was now necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, submit to an ordeal of suffering at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and then on the third day be raised up alive. Peter took him in hand, protesting, “Impossible, Master! That can never be!” <sup>23</sup>But Jesus didn’t swerve. “Peter, get out of my way. Satan, get lost. You have no idea how God works.”

<sup>24-26</sup>Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”

## Small Group Questions

- Tell a story about a time when you thought you knew what was going to happen, but then it turned out to be the exact opposite. What made you so confident you were going to be right?
- What stands out to you about this passage? Has this changed your perspective on what following Jesus looks like?
- What do you need to give up in order to follow Jesus?

