

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Matthew 16:24-25

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Key Point: Jesus didn’t call us to be comfortable. He called us to be faithful.

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What stood out to you about the Cochardos’ ministry with Kingdom Air Corps?

Start thinking:

- What does Jesus mean by “deny yourself”? How is that different from self-discipline or self-improvement?
- What does “take up your cross” look like in practical, everyday life?
- How do you interpret the paradox in verse 25: “Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it”?
- Louie Giglio writes, “We have about five seconds on earth to make our lives count.” How does that perspective shift your priorities?

TALK IT OVER

Start sharing:

- In what ways can comfort become a spiritual distraction?
- Have you ever felt called to something that required stepping out of your comfort zone or giving something up for Jesus? How did you respond? What was the outcome?
- Louie Giglio says, “God doesn’t call us to be comfortable. He calls us to be faithful.” What does that mean to you personally?
- How does this Matthew 16:24-25 challenge the way we think about success and fulfillment?
- What role does community play in helping us live out this kind of radical discipleship?
- Can you think of a time when comfort kept you from stepping out in faith? What happened?

Start doing:

- What are some practical ways we can resist the pull of comfort in our daily routines?
- What’s one area of your life where God might be calling you to move from comfort to courage?

Prayer Requests: Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God. Pray for our missionaries, specifically the Cochardos and the student pilots at Kingdom Air Corps.