



**HATFIELD
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 3 WEEK 7

06 September 2018

UP IN OUT - Deny yourself

'Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'

Mark 8:34 (NIV)

Icebreaker

Imagine that Jesus is here with us at Life Group. He is warm and friendly and greets everyone while making some coffee. He then stares into your eyes and as you feel His love and grace, He asks, 'Will you deny yourself?'. What is your response?

Introduction (Read Mark 8)

- In this chapter, we see that the disciples are witness to some of Jesus' miracles. The chapter transitions to a conversation between Peter and Jesus. Peter correctly identifies that Jesus is the Messiah but he misunderstands the work that Jesus came to do. Immediately after this, Jesus calls the crowd toward Him and presents the cost of discipleship. This can either be done through a legalistic approach (right vs wrong, with an emphasis on what I do) or the approach of grace (loved and accepted by God, He defines who I am). Jesus' call to self-denial seems to be more about surrendering our identity to the identity of being a son/daughter of our extraordinary King

Discussion

- Seeing how Peter misunderstood Jesus, have you ever misunderstood something that the Lord has asked of you?
- How important do you feel Jesus' call to self-denial is within our highly individualistic society?
- Have you understood discipleship as a legalistic process or a process of grace? What informed this view?
- Reading Mark 8:34-36, how do you see grace in the invite from Jesus?

- How important do you see the work of the Holy Spirit in the process of self-denial? How does His involvement help us differentiate from self-introspection to true transformation?

Prayer

- Pray for those in the group who are wanting to respond to Jesus' invite to discipleship.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would speak gently and clearly, and provide the grace needed for denying ourselves.
- Pray for that our hearts would be transformed from within, rather than simply following a set of rules in this process.
- Pray that, as we deny ourselves, we would be filled with more of Jesus and that this would shine His light into our communities.
- Have you enjoyed the services lately? Let's take a moment to thank the Lord for what He is doing in our church and the Body across Pretoria.