



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Way of the Cross” (Matthew 10:34-39)**

Date: **November 3, 2019**

Jesus is continuing to instruct his disciples before he sends them out to minister to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He has just commanded them not to fear man no matter how much persecution they may face for the sake of Christ. If they stand firm and acknowledge Christ before men, then Christ will acknowledge them before his Father who is in heaven. In this week’s study, Jesus further explains to them that gospel ministry will be hard and will require sacrifice. It will divide families. It will force people to choose between their loved ones or Christ. In order to truly be counted worthy of Christ, one must be willing to take up his cross and follow him—even if that means forsaking their family. Our ultimate loyalty in this life must be to Christ and his kingdom. Jesus concludes this section with these profound words, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 10:34-39 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. In verse 34, Jesus says that he did not come to bring peace on earth. And yet other passages in Scripture seem to indicate that he did come to bring peace (i.e. Psalm 72:7, Luke 1:79, John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:14). He’s even referred to as the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). How do we reconcile what Jesus says in verse 34 with these other passages that seem to teach that Jesus came to bring peace?
 - b. What does Jesus mean when he says he came to bring “a sword” in verse 34?
 - c. In verse 35, Jesus said that he came “to set” family members against one another. What does he mean by this?
 - d. Why and how does the gospel bring division to this world?
 - e. Verse 35 says that faith will divide families. What are some examples of this in Scripture?
 - f. How is verse 37 related to what Jesus said about the fear of man in verses 10:26-33? What does Jesus say is true of us if we love family members more than we love him?



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- g. What does it mean to “take up your cross” and follow Christ (v. 38)?
- h. Jesus says in verse 39, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” What does this mean? What does it look like to truly die to self?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. Why does Jesus say that he came not to bring peace, but a sword? What does he mean by this? How do we reconcile this with other verses that seem to indicate that Jesus did come to bring peace?
3. Have you experienced conflict or division in your relationships as a result of the gospel? Explain.
4. What are some ways in which we might be tempted to be more loyal to our families and friends than we are to Christ? What can we do to overcome this?
5. Day-to-day, how does one “take up his cross and follow Christ”? How does one truly die to self?
6. How does this passage disprove the prosperity gospel that is preached by many today?
7. Why is Jesus worth sacrificing everything for (i.e. our relationships, possessions, desires, etc.)? What is the benefit of clinging to Christ alone as our most treasured possession?