

# TALK IT OVER

## PICK UP YOUR CROSS

### DIG DEEPER

Sometimes, a child may answer a parent that he understands what they are trying to teach them, but the parent knows they don't! In the same way, there are verses in the Bible that we can think we understand, but our Father in heaven knows very well that we don't. Only the Holy Spirit can make us understand his Word.

One of those verses is **Matthew 16:24-26**, where Jesus defines what is a Christian, or follower of Jesus. Three things that must happen in the life of a true follower of Christ:

1. Give up your own way of doing life
2. Take up your cross
3. Follow Jesus

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think that Jesus demands too much? Why or why not? Discuss.
2. Why do you think that the only way to save our lives, is by giving it up for His cause? What are practical and daily ways that we can crucify our own self, in favor of the life Christ offers?



*"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved and gave himself for me."*

- Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

### SIMPLICITY

Reading **2 Timothy 3:1-5** is like watching today's news or twitter feed! Paul warns that in the last days, *"people will only have love for themselves and for their money."* Isn't that what we see today? Now compare and contrast that statement to the David's words in **Psalms 27:4**.

Sometimes we don't even realize it, but we come to church thinking only of ourselves (I want the closest parking, where should I sit, they better sing MY favorite song, Pastor better speak to MY situation). How different would church services be if we all arrived thinking about HIM? How would they be different if we arrived thinking of blessing others?

Minister repentance to the group and pray together, determined to *"take up your cross,"* and follow Jesus to the end. Only then will we experience joy like only God can offer. *Class # 2*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT STEPS COURSE  
LIFEGROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

February 7 (9am via Zoom or Live)  
February 21 (10am – 1pm)