



DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 3 (March 15th – March 21st)

JESUS FREAKS: CALLED TO CARRY THE CROSS

WELCOME. Welcome to DGroup. **Quick Response Icebreaker:** Other than your driver's license, what proof of identification do you carry along with you?

WORSHIP. *CHRIST IS ENOUGH (HILLSONG WORSHIP)*

WORD. Read **MATTHEW 16:21-28**

1. Last Sunday, Pastor Jon preached from Matthew 16:21-28 and shared the following points about what it means to be a *Jesus Freak: Called to Carry the Cross*:
 - A. **THE INEVITABILITY OF THE CROSS FOR JESUS** (verses 21-23).
 - B. **THE INVITATION TO CARRY OUR OWN CROSS** (verse 24).
 - C. **THE INHERENT COST OF CARRYING THE CROSS** (verses 25-26).
 - D. **THE INEFFABLE WORTH OF IDENTIFYING WITH THE SAVIOUR** (verses 27-28).What was your biggest take away from last Sunday's sermon?
2. Pastor Jon said, "*Jesus' invitation for us to carry the cross is more of identification than an act.*" How did Pastor explain this?
3. The cross in Jesus' day was not a piece of jewelry that people wear, it was a brutal form of death penalty devised the Romans to instill fear in the hearts of their imperial subjects. When Jesus asked His disciples to carry their cross, He was in a way telling them that following Him might cost them their freedom, their livelihood, and even their lives. Why do you think was Jesus demanding so much from anyone who wants to follow Him?
4. Jesus said, "*...if anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself...*" What does self-denial mean for Him and for us according to Philippians 2:3-8?
5. Why do you think biblical self-denial is so incomprehensible and uncommon in 21st-century North America?
6. Do you think it's worth it give up everything to follow Jesus? What does Jesus tell us in verses 27-28 about the reward of living for Him?

WORK. Apply God's Word:

1. Pastor Jon said, "*True biblical self-denial is about the giving up something lesser for the true joy of pursuing something much, much greater.*" Read Philippians 3:8-10. What lesser areas of your life that take the things of God could you give up so that you can enjoy the greater things He has for you?
2. Identifying as a follower of Jesus is dangerous in many parts of the world. Some Jesus Freaks literally get hated, hurt and even killed for their faith, values and beliefs. Less than a year ago, an American Christian man was brutally assassinated in the public square by someone who disagreed with him, yet his family responded in love. Are you brave enough to speak the Gospel, and stand up for the truth even if it cost everything?
3. Would you still love those who hate you enough to still share the Gospel with them? Read Matthew 5:10.
4. Think and share about how the future hope of seeing Jesus could impact our choices and actions in everyday life.