



#DEATHTOSELFIE

FOUR WEEK SERIES
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

vineyardyouth

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WEEK 1: JUST SAY NO

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Luke 9:23-25

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

MAIN THOUGHT

The selfish life leads to the smallest life. The denied life leads to the biggest life.

DISCUSSION

Why do you think Jesus placed such a high emphasis on denying yourself? Why not say other things like if you want to be my disciple, listen to my teachings, or follow my example - why did he elevate denying yourself so much?

MAIN POINTS

Denying yourself leads you to freedom FROM

Denying yourself leads you to freedom TO

Denying yourself teaches who is really in charge of your life

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

What's one thing that you can practice saying "no" to yourself about this week? What is one thing you can give up for a week?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What do you think Jesus meant when he told us to "take up our cross" and follow him?
2. What sacrifices have you had to make in your life because of your faith in Jesus? Looking forward, what kinds of sacrifices do you anticipate having to make as you get older?
3. What things that you care about or spend time doing do you think compete with your desire to follow Jesus? Another way to ask this is, what things in your life do you think are holding you back from following Jesus wholeheartedly?
4. Do you agree with Christian's claim that the denied life is the better life? Why or why not?
5. In what ways does a selfish life actually not turn out to be the better life?
6. What is one thing you can practice saying no to yourself with this week? Let's each make a plan for the weekly challenge - what will you give up?

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WEEK 2: WHAT WOULD I WANT?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

MAIN THOUGHT

What if we defined "love your neighbor as yourself" with the question, "What would I want in that situation?"

DISCUSSION

What would change if we started treating each other the way that we want to be treated? In our society? In our friendship groups?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Think of a neighbor you could actively show God's love to through practical ways this week.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus puts the command to love your neighbor on the same level as the command to love God?
2. Have you ever been on the "outside" of a group? How did it make you feel? Have you ever been on the inside of a group? Did you notice that your group (and you) would exclude others?
3. How can you love your friends the way you would want to be loved?
4. The Bible talks about humility and valuing others above ourselves. What do you think the difference is between humility and insecurity (or even self hatred)?
5. Christian talks about three groups we can love as we love ourselves: our friends, those who are different than us, and those who have less than us. Which of these groups do you find hardest to treat the way you want to be treated?
6. Christian challenges us to ask the questions, "If I was homeless, what would I want?" "If I was lonely, what would I want?" "If I was hurting, what would I want?" How would you answer those questions, and how should your answers inform how you live your life?

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WEEK 3: SERVE IT FORWARD

VERSE OF THE WEEK

John 13:1-4

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

12-17

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

MAIN THOUGHT

Serve it forward. (Learning to serve others out of the overflow of God's service of us.)

DISCUSSION

Where have you seen God's healing, freedom, forgiveness and/or deliverance in your life?

MAIN POINTS

Ways to Serve it Forward:

- 1) Do what no one else wants to do.
- 2) Go above and beyond.
- 3) Receive no credit.

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

Look for ways that you can practically serve other people.

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WEEK 3: SERVE IT FORWARD

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to teach the importance of serving each other? He could have taught anything he wanted, right? So why this? Why did he think this was so important to the future of Christianity that in his last moments with the disciples, he made such a big deal out of serving each other?
2. What are some ways you can be more of a serving person in your everyday life? It's easy to just forget isn't it? How can you serve people at home? At school?
3. Tell a story to the group of a time you served someone. How did it make you feel to serve someone? Did you learn anything about God or yourself?
4. Do you agree with Christian that part of serving others is being someone who goes "above and beyond?" How could you practice that in your life? Pick a specific situation in your life and apply this truth. How could you start going above and beyond in that area of your life?
5. What do you think are the obstacles to us serving others more often? What stands in our way?

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WEEK 4: WHO ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Romans 12:1-1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

MAIN THOUGHT

Who are we following? Who is our compass that we orient our life towards?

DISCUSSION

What things compete with God in your life? What things do you sometimes find yourself tempted to "follow" instead of God?

MAIN POINTS

Who are we following in these three important areas of our life:

- 1) Morality - deciding right and wrong in our lives
- 2) How we treat others
- 3) How we make important decisions

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How does culture tell us to decide what is right and wrong for us?
2. Do you think the statement, "find your own truth" makes sense? Discuss what happens when truth becomes something each individual gets to define, versus truth being universal and defined by a higher authority (God).
3. One of the hard parts of trying to follow God's way is that we live in a culture that disagrees with God's way. Do you ever read the Bible and disagree with what it says? How do you deal with that? Why do you think you disagree with it?
4. Why does God care what we do with our lives? Why does he have standards for us (like love your neighbor as yourself)? Why does he care how we treat others, how we treat ourselves, and whether we live according to his commands?
5. It can be hard to be a follower of Jesus when your friends aren't. How do you deal with being "different?" If we decide to make Jesus our compass in life, to follow him, it will definitely make our lives look different. Is that ever hard for you?