

Living Connections Bible Study



Living Life to the Full

Prayer

Text: Matthew 16:21-27

Icebreaker: Even though we have the promise of Heaven and eternal life, why do we recoil at the thought of dying?

1. After Peter's great confession of faith, "*You are Christ, the Son of the living God,*" what did Jesus say was going to happen? Matthew 16:16, 21

2. Why did Peter and his fellow disciples recoil from the thought of Jesus suffering and going to the cross? Matthew 16:22

3. Give some examples of how well-meaning friends and family members try to talk us out of following God's will.

4. Who was the source of temptation behind Peter, tempting Jesus not to go to the cross? Matthew 16:23a

5. What was wrong with Peter's thinking? Matthew 16:23b

6. Give some other examples of how God's will, ways and thoughts are often just the opposite from our human way of thinking. Matthew 16:25; 20:16, 26; Isaiah 55:8-9; James 4:6; Luke 14:7-11

7. What does it mean to take up our cross to follow Jesus? Matthew 16:24; Romans 12:1-2

8. What did Jesus mean: *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.* ? Verse 25

9. What conflict must every believer learn to deal with? Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 7:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Romans 6:6, 11

10. What difficulties should we expect in following and living for our Lord? 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

11. What wonderful discovery do we find by dying to self and living for Jesus? Matthew 16:25; John 10:10; Mark 10:28-30

12. Discuss the significance of Jesus' question in Matthew 16:26.

13. What do those who die to self to follow Jesus have to look forward to when we get to Heaven? Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Think about it this week:

Can I say with Paul:

*I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

~Galatians 2:20