

I Am Most Like Jesus When...

Discussion Guide

Week of April 2 - **"I Die to Myself"**

Scripture verse: John 19:16-30 / Galatians 2:20

LOOKING BACK:

Have a group member, someone who has not prayed recently, pray for the group by directing them to: "Ask the Holy Spirit to help our group understand the message we will study and to have open hearts to respond to what God is revealing."

Last week we talked about how Jesus' courage allowed Him to stand firm, even in the face of overwhelming anguish and death. **In what way did you stand firm or show courage this week in Jesus' name?** Share your story. If you didn't show courage last week, what prevented you from being courageous?

Leader Note: Members of the group may have decided to be passive last week. Ask those in the group that did not share "How can I help you be more like Jesus this week?" Ask each person in the group to pair up with another person for accountability. Then encourage each partner to send a prayer to the other person during the week for support, accountability, & affirmation.

Learning to live a courageous life, standing firm for what is right no matter what, is a challenge because we are so easily affected by the thoughts and opinions of others. We are surrounded by other philosophies that teach us to "follow our hearts" which are very deceptive! Jesus said, instead, "I am the way, the truth and the life" and

“Follow me.” He came to earth with full awareness of who he was (the Son of God) and his mission (to save the world). As it came time for his mission to be fulfilled, he once again went to the Father and submitted to His will (Mark 14:36, “Yet not what I will, but what you will”). He died to himself.

OPENING QUESTION: What does it mean to “die to yourself?” Give examples of the way a person ‘dies to oneself’.

LOOKING UP:

Ask one your group members, in advance, to read Galatians 2:20. **What does it mean to have Christ living in me?**

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Direct a member to pray for your group you study the passage. Ask the Lord to open our hearts and minds to hear the truth through God’s word and to help us obey anything the Lord reveals to us through the study and discussion of Scripture.

READ PASSAGE

John 19:16-30

Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about people?
4. What does this teach us about God?

RE-READ SAME PASSAGE

out of another bible translation then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD:

Jesus called his disciples, then and now, to FOLLOW HIM. Jesus recognized Satan at work, seeking a foothold to pre-empt God’s plan.

He calls us to do the same, setting aside our own desires for the ultimate purpose for our lives: to make disciples. This means we may have to forego a promotion, find new hobbies and passions, or simply choose Him over these and other things.

Simply being a “good person” is not enough. Heaven will be missing an awful lot of “good people” if we do not begin to focus on our mission and die to ourselves, letting Christ live in us.

What are the things you hold tightly to that prevent you from dying to yourself? What pursuits and passions have a higher priority than righteousness for you right now? Choose to take this week and ‘die to yourself’. Start with your family at home. How can you actively ‘die to yourself’ at home, at work, in your neighborhood. **Practice at home** so that you can be really good at it when you go out into your community. Come back next week and share what happened.