

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

Matthew 16:24

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This discussion guide is designed for Saylorville Church Community Groups as they live and learn together each week. The sermons and guides can be found at www.saylorvillechurch.com/sermons.

CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP (10-15 MINUTES)

- Jonathan and Alannah are missionaries serving in Uganda with Eagles Wings Children's Village (<https://www.eagleswingschildrensvillage.com/>). Together with Kristi Walker, the Michalskis were part of our Saylorville Missions Conference. What were some of your personal highlights from the conference?

APPLY THE BIBLE (45-60 MINUTES)

- Remember** what you talked about last time. Is there anything you need to **follow up** on this week?
- Review** your Sermon Notes together. What is **one thing** that sticks out to you about what you learned?
- Read** this week's passage together. In his message, **Jonathan Michalski reminded that following Jesus takes sacrifice, and is worth it.**

Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me:

1. **It's not that we can't, it's that we don't want to**

- Sometimes, God puts inconvenient needs in front of us. Unfortunately, we often justify what we don't want to do by saying that we can't do it. Can you think of when you might have done that recently?
 - What are some needs of the people **in your family** that God might be positioning you to meet?
 - What are some needs of the people **in your neighborhood** that you could meet?
 - What are some needs of **your church** that you could sacrificially meet?
 - What are some needs of the **community around the world** that God has gifted you to meet?
- Jonathan shared the story of being attacked and robbed while serving in Uganda. He talked about realizing that God loved his family more than he ever could. Be honest - what are some areas of your life (your family, your job, your finances, your home, etc.) that you aren't willing to give over to God? Think about this - what is the worst thing that could happen if you gave that to the Lord?

2. **Jesus "emptied Himself empty" (Philippians 2:5-8)**

- Is God asking you to "empty yourself" and go meet a need? Maybe you feel like you're not competent enough - God will give you strength! Maybe you feel like you're not smart enough - God will give you wisdom! Maybe you don't feel like you're young enough - God uses people of all ages to engage His world! **What excuses do you find yourself giving?**
- Jonathan said, "Counting the cost is the only way to live as a Biblical Christian." Can you truly say that you have offered your life on the altar as a sacrifice to the Lord?

Receive and Respond: What will I do because of what I just heard?

PRAY TOGETHER (5-15 MINUTES)

- Pray that your church, your Community Group, and that you yourself would be willing to say, "Lord, here I am, send me." And then pray that simple prayer out loud right now.

