

### Day 1: The Cost of Discipleship

Reading: Luke 9:23-26

Devotional: Jesus' call to discipleship is both an invitation and a challenge. He doesn't sugarcoat the difficulties, but openly declares that following Him requires self-denial and cross-bearing.

Today, reflect on what it means to "deny yourself" in your current life circumstances. Are there areas where you're holding onto control instead of surrendering to God's will? Remember, denying yourself isn't about self-hatred, but about liberation - freeing yourself to fully embrace God's purpose for your life. Pray for the courage to take up your cross daily, trusting that in losing your life for Christ, you'll truly find it.

### Day 2: From Admiration to Action

Reading: James 1:22-25

Devotional: It's easy to admire Jesus from a distance, but true discipleship calls us to action.

James reminds us to be doers of the word, not just hearers. Consider areas in your life where you've been content with simply knowing about Jesus, rather than actively following Him. What would it look like to move from passive belief to active obedience in those areas? Remember, faith without works is dead. Ask God to reveal one practical step you can take today to put your faith into action, following Jesus' example of love and service.

### Day 3: Dying to Self, Living for Christ

Reading: Galatians 2:20

Devotional: Paul's powerful declaration in Galatians encapsulates the heart of Christian discipleship - we no longer live for ourselves, but Christ lives in us. This "dying to self" isn't a one-time event, but a daily choice to surrender our will to God's. Reflect on areas of your life where you're still holding onto control. What would it look like to let Christ truly live through you in those situations? Remember, this surrender leads not to loss, but to discovering your true identity in Christ. Pray for the faith to trust God's plan for your life, even when it doesn't align with your own desires.

### Day 4: The Paradox of Gaining by Losing

Reading: Mark 8:34-38

Devotional: Jesus presents a paradox - to save your life, you must lose it. In a world that often prioritizes self-preservation and personal gain, this teaching can seem counterintuitive. Yet, it's at the heart of the gospel. Consider what you're holding onto tightly - perhaps success, comfort, or control. How might "losing" these things for Christ's sake actually lead to gaining something far greater? Remember Jim Elliot's words: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Ask God for the wisdom to discern what you need to "lose" in order to gain the fullness of life in Christ.

### Day 5: Following Jesus in Daily Life

Reading: Colossians 3:17

Devotional: Following Jesus isn't just about big moments of sacrifice; it's about aligning every aspect of our daily lives with His will. Paul encourages us to do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God. Today, focus on the ordinary moments of your life - your work, your

relationships, your leisure time. How can you infuse these areas with Christ-like love and purpose? Remember, true discipleship is lived out in the small, everyday choices to honor God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to help you see opportunities to follow Jesus in the mundane moments of your day.