

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
The Joy of Carrying the Cross
Sermon 1.5.10
Wayne Krause

Small Group Study for Week of May 1-7

The Big Idea

Carrying the cross like Jesus Christ, involves lifelong commitment and suffering and yet it also gives us glory and joy.

Group Reads Luke 14:25-35

Comment: These verses start with hyperbole or exaggeration (compare with Matthew 10:37.) The God who tells us to love our enemies is not turning around now and saying to hate our parents, partner and children. The exaggeration is to emphasize the seriousness and priority of being a disciple.

Statement: Discipleship involves cross bearing v 26,27

Questions

1. What does bearing our cross and “hating” the things closest to us mean today, in our lives?

Statement: The cost of discipleship should be carefully considered v 28-32

2. Isn't deciding to be a disciple a simple question? Why should discipleship be carefully considered?

3. What happens to authentic Christianity if we don't consider carefully the cost of discipleship?

Statement: All personal ambitions and worldly possessions must be laid on the altar of sacrifice.

4. What do you think of the above statement? What would doing the above look like to us?

Statement: The spirit of sacrifice must be maintained permanently v 34,35

5. What does the above statement mean in our situation?

Group Reads and Compares: Luke 6:22 page 706 (blessed is another word for happy or joyful), Romans 8:17,18 page 773, 1 Peter 4:13 page 835 and Philippians 3:10 page 805.

6. How does being a part of suffering give us joy and glory?

7. Does our wanting to move away from suffering cause us to miss out on God's blessing?

7. How can we draw close to those who are suffering in our community? What would that look like for our church, us individually?