



This past Sunday Pastor Josh preached a message addressing the empty promises we hold on to that promise us certain things (i.e., significance, security, safety, fulfillment), yet cannot actually deliver on those promises and may actually pull us away from Jesus and keep us from becoming who we are meant to be. This week's lesson will allow us to identify our own empty promises and to give them up to God.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

Let's also keep praying for the refugees and for our summer trips to Berlin. Let's pray specifically for fundraising, as teams only have a month left to raise support!

BIBLE DISCUSSION

We will be studying the key passage from Pastor Josh's sermon: Matthew 16:21-28. In this text, we see how because Peter is holding on to certain empty promises (or human concerns, as Jesus puts it), he stands against God's desires, is a stumbling block for Jesus, and is not acting like the rock that Jesus says he is in the passage right before.

Introduction Question: What is one belief that you once carried that had a great impact on your life?

See attached for a printout of the passage for your lifegroup members to take notes on.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Why does Peter rebuke Jesus?
- Why does Jesus respond so strongly and even call Peter "Satan"?
- What does being Jesus' disciple entail?
- What would it look like practically for us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus?
- What does it mean when Jesus says "whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it"?

Reflection Question: What are the empty promises/human concerns that we are holding on to that may actually be pulling us away from Jesus and keeping us from becoming who we are meant to be? What might it look like to begin to let go of these empty promises/human concerns and replace them with godly promises and concerns?

Small Group: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about our empty promises and pray for each other to be able to give these up and to replace them with godly promises.

MATTHEW 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. ²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” ²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. ²⁸ “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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