

Dig Deeper @Home – “Gather. Nurture. Make Disciples.”
Complement to sermon on September 24, 2017 – “Make Disciples”

MEMORIZE – Galatians 5: 5-6

For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

READ Matthew 16: 21-28

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. In 16:16 Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ. In 16:22, he wants God to forbid Jesus to be killed and raised from the dead. It’s to this phrase that Jesus responds with his call for his followers to deny themselves. What is Peter guilty of here and what specifically is Jesus calling him to deny (hint: verse 23)?
4. Jesus tells his disciples that to follow Him they must deny themselves and take up their crosses. But what does that look like? Matthew reveals this to us in the following chapters. Read the following sections and identify how each of these give insight into following Jesus
 - a. Matthew 18: 1-9
 - b. Matthew 18: 10-14
 - c. Matthew 18: 15-20
 - d. Matthew 18: 21-35
5. What are ways you can deny yourself this week? At home? At school/work?

Bottom Line – Summarize Matthew 16: 21-28 in your own words



Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Matthew 16: 21-28

Tic-Tac-Toe (with a twist)

Challenge someone to tic-tac-toe (your spouse, a child, a friend). Let them go first. In traditional tic-tac-toe, one person is "x" and one person is "o." The twist, is that whatever letter your opponent chooses, you will use as well. So if your opponent puts down an "o," put down an "o." This will likely confuse your opponent and they might even protest. Encourage them to keep playing. Their next move will not likely be to finish the last spot needed to get 3 in a row, rather they will more likely put an "o" in an area to still get their own three in a row. If that is so, put the last "o" needed, strike the line through it and shout "tic-tac-toe." They might be totally confused by this point. If so, take time to explain the rule is to get three in a row. We make it competitive, but the quickest way to get three in a row is to use the same symbols not competing ones. In order to do this, we have to go against our traditions and expectations, we have to deny ourselves. The same is true for following Jesus. In what ways do you need to deny yourself this week to more faithfully follow Jesus?

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Running

A fun song by Hillsong about chasing after Jesus

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated – Mennonite Hymnal #358

Sing all 6 verses of this wonderful hymn

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. It is a time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Heavenly Father, we hear the call to deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow Jesus. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to do this as we go this week. In Jesus name. Amen.