

And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power." Mark 9:1 (ESV)

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 2 Peter 1:16–18 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Read Mark 8:34-9:1 to familiarize yourself with the passage.
2. Denying ourselves to follow Jesus isn't easy. What hope do the following verses give us so we know living a life based on God's plan instead of our own is worth it? Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15
3. As we follow Christ, self-denial is a daily process of letting Jesus be in the driver's seat. The apostle Paul makes a similar statement to the church of Ephesus speaking not only of things to stop but also of things to start. As you read these passages, jot down what Paul tells the Ephesians to start and stop doing. Ephesians 4:29-5:3; Ephesians 5:15-16
4. What insight and encouragement do these verses give us as we try to continue to deny ourselves and live for him? Matthew 11:28-29, Galatians 2:20, Romans 8:5.

Mark 8:34-9:1 – How Do I Become A Christian?

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"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26 (ESV)

Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:31–33 (ESV)

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:57–62 (ESV)

1. How do I become a Christian?

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Mark 8:34 (ESV)

A. I must deny myself.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matthew 13:44–46 (ESV)

B. I must take up my cross.

Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 1 John 3:13 (ESV)

C. I give loyal obedience to Jesus.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. John 14:21 (ESV)

2. Is the high cost of becoming a Christian worth it?

A. The only way to save my life in the next world is to be willing to lose my life for Jesus in this world.

For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. Mark 8:35 (ESV)

And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:17 (ESV)

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— of whom the world was not worthy... Hebrews 11:35–38 (ESV)

B. Saving my soul is more valuable than all the wealth of the world.

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?
Mark 8:36–37 (ESV)

C. Boldly living for Jesus is the only way to have confidence on the day of judgment.

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
Mark 8:38 (ESV)