

## Take Up Your Cross | Week 7

### Introduction

All learning and all discipleship require a personal death of some kind. To learn anything new means you must set aside your pride and embrace being terrible at something. This is how we learn and grow. We don't tell our teachers and coaches what to do. We die to ourselves and practice their way of doing. The same is true with following Jesus. We give up our way to practice his ways, and we do this daily.

### Conversation Starters (10 minutes)

- What is one thing that has changed since you started following Jesus? If you are not yet following Jesus, what is one thing you would expect to change?
- What is something that you used to enjoy that is no longer appealing?

### Sermon Notes Review (15 minutes)

What caught your attention, stood out to you, or challenged you from this weekend's teaching?

### [Watch the Video](#) (5 minutes)

### Group Discussion (45 minutes)

1. What is amazing about God's grace?
2. Read [John 3:16-18](#)
  - What do you feel when you think about how Jesus was sacrificed on the cross for you?
  - In what ways are you living gratefully for the sacrifice made for you, and in what ways could you improve?
  - Do you feel verse 18 opposes or aligns with the world's interpretation of Christianity? Why or why not?
3. Read [John 3:19-21](#)
  - What do you believe John is saying when he says, "Light has come into the world?"
  - What do you believe coming into the "light" means?
  - Can you think of a time that you have stepped into the light? If so share that with the group.
4. Read [John 14:6](#); [John 17:17](#); [Ephesians 1:11-14](#)
  - What do these three verses say to you about what the truth is?
  - After reading these verses, how do you believe you can live by the truth? How is that going?

5. Read [Luke 9:23-26](#)

- What do these verses reveal to you about following Jesus?
- Does it appear that taking up your cross is a one-time choice or an ongoing process? How does that play out in day-to-day life?

## Prayer (5 minutes)

We all have things we need to resist or commit to in order to take up our cross every day and follow Jesus. Go around the circle, and each person identify something that you need to commit to, or something you need to resist in order to follow Jesus, then each person pray for the person to your right asking God to help them in their pursuit of following Jesus.

## Announcements (5 minutes)

- If you have a child entering kindergarten through high school in the 2025-26 school year, we have a summer camp just for them! Camps are an incredible experience that invests in your child, helps them build a stronger relationship with Jesus, and make some friendships! Check out all the camp options at [camps.sv.cc](https://camps.sv.cc).
- Easter is just around the corner! If you haven't RSVP'd yet, there's still time! Visit [easter.sv.cc](https://easter.sv.cc) today to let us know you're coming and to reserve spots for your family and any guests joining you. We can't wait to celebrate with you!