

## THE STEPS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 16:24-27  
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### INTRO:

The crisis of discipleship.

- A. **DESIRE** – “If anyone comes after Me.” (v. 24a)

*Discipleship begins with a heart that longs for Christ.*

- B. **DENIAL** - “Let them deny themselves.” (v. 24b)

*Discipleship means saying "no" to self and "yes" to Jesus.*

- C. **DEATH** - “Pick up their cross and follow Me.” (v. 24c-25)

*Discipleship involves daily dying to self and living for Christ.*

- D. **DEVOTION** - “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?”(v. 26)

*Discipleship prioritize God’s kingdom over worldly gain.*

- E. **DESTINY** - "The Son of Man is going to come... and will repay each person according to what he has done." (v. 27)

*The choices we make in discipleship shape our eternal destiny.*

### CONCLUSION:

Jesus calls us not just to believe in Him, but to follow Him. Which step of discipleship do you need to take today?

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### ICEBREAKER

What is one of the most difficult commitments you've ever made? (A job, marriage, fitness goal, spiritual discipline, etc.)

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Read Matthew 16:24-27)

#### 1. DESIRE – *"If anyone would come after me..."*

- What does it mean to "come after" Jesus? How can we cultivate a deeper desire to follow Christ?

#### 2. DENIAL – *"Let him deny himself..."*

- What does self-denial look like in daily life? Why is it so difficult to deny ourselves in today's culture? Are there any personal ambitions or habits that you struggle to surrender to God?

#### 3. DEATH – *"Take up his cross and follow me."*

- How does dying to ourselves actually bring more life? (See Galatians 2:20)
- Can you share a time when you had to make a difficult sacrifice to follow Christ?

#### 4. DEVOTION – *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world?"*

- How can we practically shift our priorities toward Christ? In what ways do you personally struggle with balancing devotion to Christ and worldly pursuits?

#### 5. DESTINY – *"The Son of Man is going to come... and will repay each person according to what he has done."*

- What kind of legacy do you want to leave as a disciple of Christ?
  - What steps can you take to align your life with an eternal perspective?
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### APPLICATION & RESPONSE (10 minutes)

- Which of these five steps (Desire, Denial, Death, Devotion, Destiny) do you need to work on most in your discipleship journey?
  - What is one practical change you can make this week to follow Jesus more closely?
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### CLOSING PRAYER (5 minutes)

Encourage group members to pray for each other, asking God for strength to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.