



FOLLOWING JESUS

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 5 – LIVING A CRUCIFIED LIFE

TENSION POINT

We are either living in sin or we are living in Christ.

Psalm 51:5

Ephesians 1:13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Galatians 2:20

Luke 9:23

OBSERVATIONS

- Living a crucified life in Christ is our _____ and our _____.
- Our relationship with Christ controls all _____.

APPLICATIONS

- Embrace the tension as an opportunity to _____.
- Walk in close fellowship with Christ so that you are ready to respond in a way that _____.
- Make relational decisions based on the _____ of God's Word, the _____ of God's Spirit and the _____ of God's people.
- Move forward humbly so as to be sensitive to God's direction or redirection.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Being a disciple of Jesus, and prioritizing our relationship with him, will create times when we seemingly must choose between our relationship with Christ and our relationship with others. How have you felt this tension in your life?
2. Matthew 10:35 & 36 is an Old Testament quote from a prophecy in Micah that people who are committed to the kingdom of God will have people very close to them turn against them. Has this happened to you? What was it about your faith that caused people to distance themselves from you? How did you feel when it did? Can we minimize the negative impact our faith can have on our other relationships?
3. Luke 14:26 records the statement of Jesus that anyone wanting to follow him must hate their father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters. Is Jesus calling us to abandon our family responsibilities? How do you understand what Jesus is calling us to? Does his following statement that we have to even hate our own life add anything to our understanding?
4. Why are there times we must choose to follow Christ, even if it appears to negatively impact our relationship with family or friends?
5. When your commitment to Christ brings tension with your other relationships, how should you proceed? What should be part of your decision making process? Why is it important that you determine in advance you will handle this tension?