

Live the Message

Week of May 8, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun

Message Recap: Read Matthew 10:17-42

Living the Message at any cost means we embrace our creation, acknowledge our fall, accept our redemption, and wait for our restoration. To live the whole message at any cost is knowing that we will be persecuted for what we believe, but we believe anyway. It is expecting challenges and leaning on God to help us through. Living the message means giving up something that seems unfair or impossible because Jesus asked. It means that we live giving all we've been given back to God, no matter how small it seems to us. To put Jesus first is to die completely to your life, your hopes, and your desires and to let Jesus completely fill your life with his hopes and his desires for you. This is a life surrendered from the small and filled with so much more because Jesus is all.

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Jesus, I choose you. I choose to give up the smallness of my life—and to give you every bit of me. Fill me with your all, with your strength, and with your compassion. Let my life reveal the weight of your glory, and the work of your glory, even in the smallest of my actions. I surrender all to you and wait for you to do it all in me and through me.

Getting Started

- How many different places have you lived? Where was your favorite place to live?
- When was the last time you had to make a hard choice? Did you do the right thing? Share your story.

Listening Deeply

- Read Matthew 10:17-25. Why did Jesus tell us we would be opposed and rejected? Does this give you courage or make you scared?
- 2. Read Matthew 10:26-32. Show evidence of how loyalty to Jesus and basic courage in life matter to God. Where can you be more loyal or more courageous?
- 3. Read Matthew 10:34-36. Discuss what this passage means both in a general sense, and what it means to you personally.
- 4. There will come a time in your faith journey that Jesus will ask you to give up something that seems unfair or impossible. Has this happened to you? Share your story.
- 5. Living the Message of Jesus means giving all you have for Jesus. What does this look like in a 2016 life?
- 6. How do you need to step up and give it all for Jesus? What are you holding onto that is holding you back from Living the Whole Message?

Living Wide in Jesus

As you wait for the restoration of your soul with God in Heaven, what are you doing with your life? Are you living it for you, or for the glory of Jesus? If you haven't been opposed or rejected lately, you might be getting too comfortable with yourself. Although Jesus brings peace to our souls, he does not bring peace to our world. He comes to separate the light from the dark, and with that comes opposition and struggle. He gives you the choice to follow him in the light, or to follow the world in the dark. When you lay down all the lesser things of the world to live the whole message of Jesus, you will be rewarded with more than you could ever imagine though the mercy, grace, and love of God. But there is no half way. You are either living the message of God, or you aren't. So what is the message of your life? Is it centered around what you can do, or around what Jesus is doing in you and through you?