



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

Message Recap:

Read **Mark 8:35** & **Matthew 6:19**

Life as a follower of Jesus only truly begins when we die to ourselves. The world tells us to be consumers but Jesus tells us to be givers. We cannot follow Jesus and hang on to our own life, our own desires, our own will and aspirations. But when we choose to willingly die to ourselves, Jesus comes alive within us. My desires are replaced by his, my wants are replaced by his, and my will is replaced by his. When our values are replaced by our Father's values, we will find ourselves in contrast to the world around us. Real wealth is found not in the amount of stuff that we gather, own and consume as the world would tell us, but rather, real wealth is found in giving of ourselves and our resources in Jesus' name.

Pray

Father, we pray that you would empower each of us to let go and die to ourselves. Help us answer the call of Jesus to give up this life that we cannot keep, to gain the life in you that we cannot lose. Keep us from the lure of this world that tells us we need more and grow within us your desire for us to be givers in Jesus name.

Getting Started

- What's the hardest thing in your life you have ever had to give up?
- What are some of the ways that a follower of Jesus might look different from the world?

Digging Deeper

1. Discuss the possible differences between "dead religion" and "following Jesus."
2. Why does Jesus tell us that we must die to ourselves?
3. What does it look like to live as a Citizen of Heaven?
4. What are some examples you have seen of people who are living "the given life." What do you notice about them? What is different about them?
5. Explore how someone might act differently if Jesus is just an advisor verses Jesus as their Lord.
6. How much value do you place on winning, collecting, gathering, storing and getting?
7. If real wealth is not found in owning or gathering but rather in giving in Jesus name, what prevents us from giving?

Living Jesus

The pull of gravity calls us to live life focused on the earth. The call of Jesus is to die to ourselves and this world so that we might live for him as citizens of heaven. It is the hardest thing in the world to do. Ask God to reveal to you areas of your life where you still need to die, areas that you are still living as a citizen of this world. Consider as a group, some ways that you might be able to live a life that values giving more than consuming. Where are the needs around you that you can help meet?