

THE **crossing** **small groups**

God Has a Wonderful Plan for Your Life | Luke 9:20-23 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To take a step in following Jesus' cross-centered pattern.

Icebreaker: Keith described the message of the four spiritual laws that drew Keith and Christine to become Christians. The first law in the booklet is that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives.

What was the main message that appealed to you to become a Christian?

Discussion

Transition: God does have a plan for our lives, and it is wonderful. But, what we think of as a wonderful plan may not be how God does.

1. How would someone in Columbia (or your town) describe the "wonderful life"?

Transition: This might be what we think God will give us if we trust him and follow him enough. But, let's look at how God defines the Christian life...

Read:

[Acts 14:21-22](#)

²¹They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²²strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

2. What do you think about how Paul and Barnabas' message to early Christians is summarized?

Transition: Let's see how Jesus talks about the Christian life...

Read:

[Luke 9:18-21](#)

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¹⁸ Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" ¹⁹ And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." ²⁰ Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

²¹ And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one,

3. Why does our answer about who Jesus is matter for how we live our life?
4. Why might Jesus have told the disciples not tell anyone who he is yet?

Luke 9:22-26

²² saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

²³ And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

5. Keith made the point that the cross not only saves us from our sins, but also sets a pattern for us to live. What do we learn from Jesus' call to this cross-centered life?
6. How can this be a "wonderful life"? Why would this be better than just chasing our culture's definition of the "wonderful life"?

Sharing and Prayer:

Consider splitting up into smaller groups to share with each other a way they feel challenged to follow Jesus more deeply into this cross-centered life. Have people pray for each other.