

Building Faith - Changing Lives - Sharing Christ

## Week #4

### Opening Up

In your small group, read John 12: 25

- What do you think Jesus means in saying that we must lose our lives? You may wish to share in our group some of those parts of your life that you need to lose, habits you need to give up, etc. What do you think Jesus requires us to do in order to keep our lives?

### Digging Deeper

Where we need the help is in remembering and striving for the new life in Christ. We want the abundant and full life that Jesus promises in John 10:10. In this study we will explore what that life is, so that we can better see the kind of life that we want.

Read Philippians 2:1-18 in your small group.

- How does Paul describe Christ's abundant life?
- St. Augustine says this of Christ's life, "If you should ask me what are the ways of God, I would tell you that the first part is humility, the second is humility, and the third is still humility. Not that there are no other precepts to give, but if humility does not precede all that we do, our efforts are fruitless." What word/s would you use to describe the three outstanding characteristics of Christ's life?

In Ephesians 1:3-23 Paul, writes of the benefits that we receive in Christ – in many ways, he is describing in more detail the abundant life promised in John 10:10. In your group, list the characteristics of abundant life that Paul outlines. You may want to divide into three groups, each taking a paragraph (3-10, 11-14, and 15-23).

- What benefits do you see that Christ has brought into your life? Which of these benefits do you see missing in your life? To what are you holding onto, instead? Could any of these benefits become a "passion" for you to pursue? What passion would need to die in order to make room for this benefit in your life?



## Application

Read Matthew 13:31-32. This is the parable of the mustard seed. Also read John 12:24.

- What is the significance of a seed remaining only a single seed as compared to a seed that dies and grows into a plant that produces more seeds, fruit, and life for others? In today's study, we have focused on giving our life away (which includes dying to our old self), that we might have abundant life. What is one lesson that you will take from today's study that will encourage you to strive for abundant life? What will you do in order to live more abundantly?

## Time for Lives...

Use Psalm 100 – a Psalm of Praise – as part of your small group's closing prayer.

