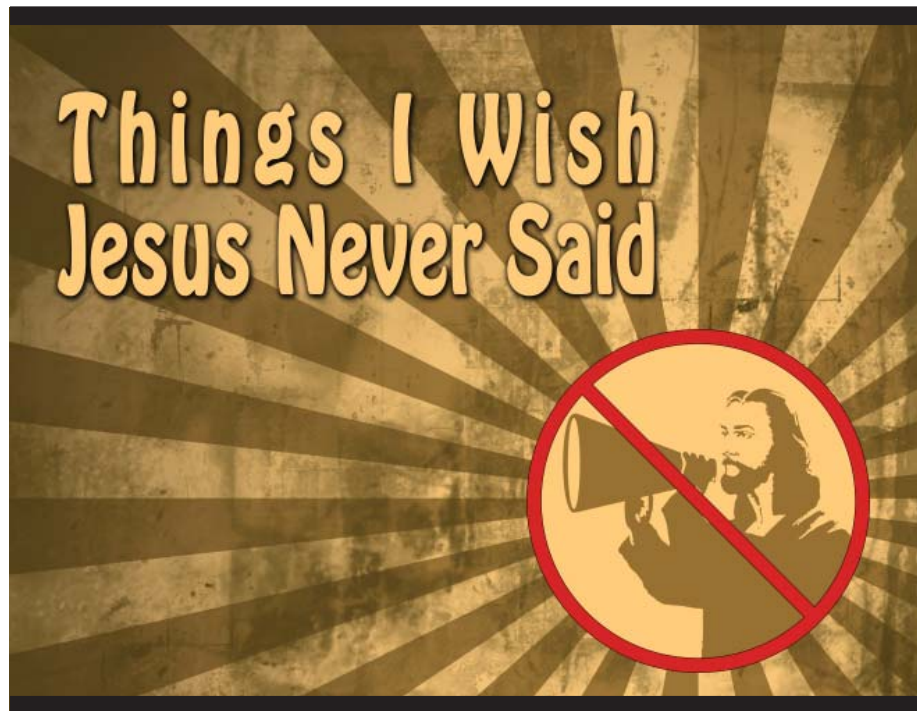


Things I Wish Jesus Never Said Part 1



Includes the Kid's City Family Resource
Did Jesus Really Say That?

A Big Idea Discussion Guide



**Includes the Kid's City
Family Resource Guide:
Did Jesus Really Say That?**

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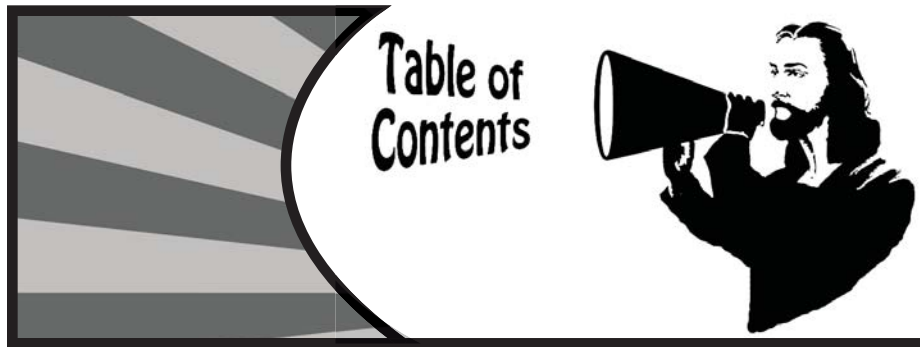
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A Reproducing Church™ Resource



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Notes





If we want the real, true life that Jesus offers, we need to abandon our way of doing things and follow after him. We need to lose our life.

Introduction

In May 2003 Aron Ralston did something so extreme that it made him famous. Ralston was climbing in Utah at Blue John Canyon when a boulder fell on his right forearm. After spending five days of trying to push the boulder off and yelling for help, he finally tied a tourniquet around his pinned forearm and used a multi-tool to cut off his arm from the elbow down. He then repelled down a 65-foot rock wall and started to hike 8 miles back to his truck (a stick-shift) before encountering a family who called emergency personnel. He was eventually airlifted out by a helicopter. What's more amazing than him actually doing something like this is the fact that he is more "alive" now than ever. It seems that so many people, after having a near-death experience, become much more appreciative for what their life means than ever before.





Icebreaker

If you were Aron, what would you have done? Would you have cut off your arm or just laid there and died? Or would you have done something else?

Read Matthew 16: 24-26 (ESV)

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life would lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?'"

Questions

1. What do you think Jesus is trying to communicate with the statement, "whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"?
2. How do you react at a gut level to Jesus' statement about losing your life?
 - a. Angry?
 - b. Disappointed?
 - c. Frustrated?
 - d. Confused?
 - e. Surprised?
 - f. Other _____?



3. What are some things that Jesus says in Matthew 16 that we must do to have life?

4. Share an example of what it might mean to deny yourself for the sake of Christ?

5. What do you think our culture would say about someone who was losing their life for Jesus? What does our culture tell us we should lose our life for?



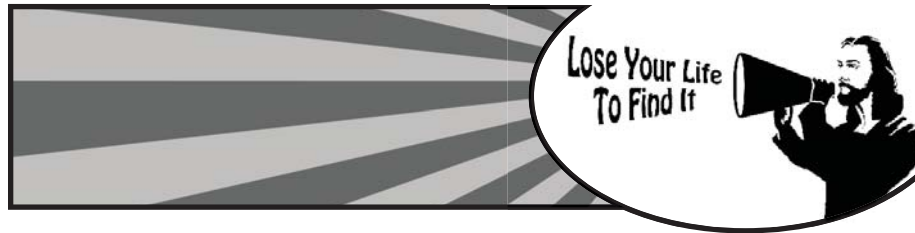
At the heart of Jesus' statement is the idea that we can only follow one thing. We will either chase after our own desires or we will be chasing after Jesus.



6. Describe a time when you were torn, trying to chase multiple things at the same time? In the end were you forced to choose one over the other? How did it work out?

7. Why do you think that Jesus said this? Why can we not have everything we want here and still be following him? Or is he wrong, can we have it all and still follow him?

Jesus also says we are to take up our cross. The grammar in the original language of this text, which is ancient Greek, implies that taking up your cross is a continuous action. Some translations add the word "daily" to the text to illustrate this idea. Obviously, Jesus said these words before he had been crucified on the cross. To his followers, this idea of a "cross" was as revolting as if someone had told us to put a noose around our necks and publicly hang ourselves daily. More than that, crucifixion was associated with the



Roman government, which was the world power controlling Israel at the time. It is considered one of the cruelest forms of capital punishment ever. It was so cruel that Roman citizens were exempt from it as a form of punishment. Aside from its cruelty, most first-century Jews would never even voluntarily adhere to anything related to the Roman government. So, Jesus is saying that we are not just to deny ourselves in our soul, but we are to behave in a different way, a radical way, a way that the world sees and notices.

8. Who are some people (past or present) who come to mind when you think of taking up a cross daily or wearing a noose for Jesus?

9. How do these stories affect us?
 - a. That's great for them, but we are not all called to that!
 - b. It is really inspiring, but I don't think I have what it takes.
 - c. I want to be like that, but I am just not sure what to do to get there.
 - d. I am trying to be one of those people... but "daily" is pretty hard.
 - e. I am one of those people.



10. What prevents us from having this same level of “reckless abandon?”

In the opening story about Aron Ralston, we heard about something that he had to “lose” in order to save his life. Jesus asks us this question in verse 26, *“what shall a man give in return for his life?”*



What is ONE thing that you need to lose from your life so that you can truly “save” your life? What is ONE thing you need to start doing this next week to carry your cross daily?

Things I Wish Jesus Never Said

Jesus said things to us that we wish He hadn't, but His hard words can change our lives.

Session 1 - Lose Your Life to Find It

Session 2 - Love Your Enemies

Session 3 - Tear Your Eye Out

Session 4 - If You Do Not Forgive...

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