

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following questions:

What's one thing you're looking most forward to this Spring?

SHARE

Welcome back! This week Doug continued in our new series by giving us four basic principles on how to live an abundant life. We find true life when we lay down our earthly ones which are measured by our circumstances, to the One who gives us life. We say yes to following Jesus and trust Him with our future rather than allowing our present situations dictate the direction we're headed. We say yes to the long game instead of temporary gain, and choose temporary sacrifice for long term results and ultimate abundance.

Which one of the four basic principles Doug spoke about on Sunday do you feel you could be better in? (Get better, See longer, Stay salty, and Fan the flame).

Which point resonates with your current season the most?

What was the most challenging part of your week?

What was the highlight of your week?

GROW

Matthew 16:24-25

What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?

How does denying yourself lead to true life?

Jesus offers a bold instruction here in order to find life. He tells us to deny ourselves and take up our cross, laying down our earthly desires in order that we follow him instead. Culture tells us to lean into our desires and live for ourselves. Jesus tells us to crucify them and *only then* we'll find ourselves. Why does Jesus make what could seem like such a daunting statement? Perhaps the fleshly desires and earthly treasures we live for haven't brought us the life or fulfillment we've longed for or hoped they would.

Laying down the life that hasn't brought us satisfaction will require temporary sacrifices, but will lead to eternal gain. Our salvation through faith alone gives us a one way entry to forever, but dying to ourselves daily to live for what we can't see will give us entry to life abundantly on this side of eternity.

What's holding you back from laying your life down to Jesus completely?

How would your life look differently if you took up your cross daily?

M O V E

John 3:16

How does this passage resonate with Doug's message from Sunday?

Outside of gaining Heaven through Jesus, what does 'everlasting life' on this side of eternity mean to you?

This passage in John reminds us that God sent His only son, Jesus, to not just give us eternal life, but life abundantly. Salvation isn't just our ticket to Heaven but is the starting point to an entirely new way of living that offers us water from the living well that never runs dry. Our earthly lives will always be dictated by our circumstances, but our Heavenly lives will always be measured by Jesus's perfection and lived from a place of higher purpose and calling. We can trust God with our future because we know the ending after our last breath on earth.

Jesus laid His life down so we could have it fully. His death and resurrection gives us access to the Father who gives abundantly to His children. Because of Jesus we gain eternal inheritance that cannot be taken from us.

How has Jesus's sacrifice changed your life in the here and now?

What's one area of your life you need to lay down to Jesus in order that you experience freedom in?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

- *"For by one sacrifice, he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."
Hebrews 10:14*