

Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow: A Journey at Hamblen to Draw Closer to Jesus Christ Through the Pandemic and Beyond

At HPPC we are called to be active followers of Jesus Christ and to build his community. That sounds great, but what does it mean? This fall we are going to explore together what qualities Christians share, what practices are helpful in order to draw closer to Jesus, and what it means to be a child of God.

Being a disciple is an active choice and a commitment. You may feel ill-equipped. Or that you don't have enough time. Or you may feel little nervous. If you are willing to seek (or deepen) a relationship with Christ, he is already waiting to meet you there and transform your heart. Are you ready for the journey?

September 20—Sermon Follow-Up Exercise Is Christ alive in me?

Focus

Followers of Jesus (disciples) are on a lifelong journey of dying to self and becoming alive in Christ.

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:23-25

[Jesus speaking to his disciples:] Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit

Questions for the Journey

- What do you think Jesus meant when he told his disciples to both "deny themselves," and, therefore, not "lose or forfeit themselves?"
- What does Jesus want for your life? How does that compare to what you want for your life?
- How might you become more like Christ if you pursued what Jesus wants in each area of life? Relationships? Church? Work? School? Etc.

Drawing Closer

- Take a few minutes to think about your desires and goals. Are they holding you back or are they encouraging you to be "alive in Christ?" Be specific.
- Spend time in silence before God, asking him to speak to you about your next steps in your relationship with him. Where is he calling you to grow?
- Connect with at least one other person to share what you have thought about this week. How is God working on your hearts?

We used portions of *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden in this resource. For an even deeper exploration of your journey as a follower of Jesus, check out Chapter 2.

To Use this Resource with a Partner or in a Group:

We are called not just into relationship with Christ, but are also called into relationships with other believers. We invite everyone to go through these exercises as individuals, then discuss your answers with at least one other person. Sharing our experiences is a powerful way to see God at work in others and ourselves. If you would like to be put into a group where you can discuss this series, let Heather know (heathern@hamblenpres.org or 509-448-2909).