

**FAC Small Group Questions
Sunday Sermon Nov. 5, 2021**

*Choose some of the following questions to review with your group
and then spend some time in prayer for each other.*

Icebreaker Opening Question:

What has been a recent high point and low point in your life?

**The Invitation: Deny Yourself
Read together Mark 8: 25-34**

1. What is your reaction to these words from Jesus to deny yourself? How does this command from the Gospels put you on a path to healing sorrow and ultimate joy?
2. Are you surprised to learn these words of Jesus, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and daily follow me" appear several times in the Bible (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, and Luke 9:23)? How would the meaning of these words have been understood by his disciples? How does this compare with what Jesus said in John 15: 1-8?
3. Where in the Scripture can we find lists of behaviors that we should deny? Refer to Galatians 5: 19-21 for an example and Proverbs 10-11 for comparisons of righteous behaviors versus behaviors that God detests.
4. What is a serious threat to your relationship with Jesus? If you are willing, take a minute to write it down on a piece of paper and then prayerfully ask Jesus to replace it with a greater joy in him. If the group is comfortable, share a few of these and pray for each other.
5. When Jesus rebuked Peter with the words "get behind me Satan", why was Jesus so firm? What must we learn from this? In what way does the enemy influence us with the same message he influenced Peter: "No need to get so extreme"?
6. Give an example of how denying yourself and putting to death that in your life which was not of Jesus and his kingdom led to joy in your life.
7. Read Romans 14: 8 and connect how the Holy Spirit plays a role in helping us deny ourselves and following Jesus.

Pray for each other as a group, perhaps praying Scripture over some of the requests!