

*In an effort to help us learn to read the Bible as individuals, families, and a Church, I invite you to read each of the following this week, perhaps first thing in the morning individually and then collectively at dinner. The verses listed in the middle column are designed for youth to adult disciples, but some of these might be difficult for children to understand, so we include an alternate reading for families with children.*

*Basic Tips: 1.) Use a translation you can understand. If new to the Bible, try the NIV or The Message, which are both available online. 2.) Use a kids Bible with kids. 3.) Keep a pencil and notebook around to write down questions, observations, and conclusions. 4.) Have fun. Use your imagination and your brain.*

### Week 10 – March 8-15

#### I AM CALLED TO DIE.

*“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.” (Matthew 16:24-25, Mark 8:34-35)*

Day 1	<b>Mark 8:31-38</b>	
Day 2	<b>Matt 10:26-33</b>	
Day 3	John 15:18-22	
Day 4	2 Cor 4:8-15	Acts 6:8-15
Day 5	2 Cor 6:3-10	Acts 7:54-8:1

#### Questions to Guide You:

1. What does this story teach us about Jesus? the Father? the Spirit?
2. What does this story teach us about followers of Jesus? People who reject Jesus?
3. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow? Is there a bad example to avoid?
4. What lies, truths, or circumstances cause people to live these ways?
5. What would my life, my relationships, my work, my school look like if I believed and obeyed this Jesus teaching?
6. What practical thing can I do different this week to better imitate and obey Jesus with regards to my marriage, my family, my friends, my work, and my neighbors?

#### Summary Declaration:

We end where we began – Follow me. Jesus’ invitation is not just, “Follow me and fish,” it is “Take up your cross and follow me.”<sup>i</sup> Following Jesus’ way of life will require me to die to certain desires, habits, and preferences.<sup>ii</sup> Following Jesus will often lead me to the cross, but I am convinced that as I lose my life, I will find it better, fuller, richer, and livelier than I dared to dream possible.<sup>iii</sup> Therefore I will make sacrifices to follow Jesus such as a simpler lifestyle, bad habits, hobbies that interfere with church, and even using my vacation time for mission trips and retreats. I will inconvenience myself to make sure my family and neighbors have an opportunity to hear the gospel.<sup>iv</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Matt 16:24-25; Mark 8:34-35; Gal 2:20

<sup>ii</sup> Rom 6:1-14; Rom 8:13; Col 3:1-10; Gal 5:19-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Acts 7:59; Acts 16:24-25; Acts 18:23; Acts 21:30-31

<sup>iii</sup> Matthew 10:38-39; Luke 9:21-27; Luke 14:25-34; Luke 15; John 12:24-26; John 15:18-22; 1 Cor 15:54-56; 2 Cor 6:9-10; 2 Cor 12:8-10

<sup>iv</sup> 2 Cor 4:8-15; 2 Cor 6:3-10; 2 Cor 11:21-28; Rom 14:13-15; 1 Cor 8:9-13; Acts 20:18-27,33-35