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**BiG iDEa:** Jesus invites me to deny myself now or lose myself later.

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*Growing Deeper* this week...

Set aside some time throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says on the subject from the Bible passages below. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before you start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

### **Identify**

Think of a time you or someone you know had to "pay the price" for following Jesus. Was the cost worth it? Why or why not?

### **Read**

*Scriptures to grow by...* Matthew 8:31-38, Deuteronomy 13:1-4, Ephesians 5:1-10, Psalm 119:1-8.

### **Reflect**

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages challenge you? In what ways do they give you comfort?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. On Sunday Doug said "Jesus offers us the choice of denying ourselves now or losing ourselves later." How do you respond to this statement? What might Jesus want to say to you about this?

### **Respond**

*Moving forward...* Take some time this week to imagine actually losing your life by carrying a cross like Jesus did. How does it feel? How might the Holy Spirit be nudging to do something, say something, quit something, start something, or give up something to follow Jesus? What do you want to say to God about this right now?