

## Getting into Our Lives .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. What seems attractive about a Christ or a church “without a cross”? Why is it actually an empty idea instead?
2. Read verse 26 again. What are you trying to gain? How do your actions in life testify for or against you? What needs to change?
3. How do you relate to the church Jesus has established? What do you think that should look like? What’s a next step you might want to take?

## Getting Out the Gospel .....Group time - 10 minutes

Take time this week to write out your own story of life change in Jesus Christ. We recommend you do so by focusing on three parts:

- 1) **Your life before Christ** - (just enough to show your need for Christ)
- 2) **How you came to Christ** - (understanding the gospel and trusting in Jesus)
- 3) **Your life after Christ** - (the difference He has made and is making)

Share with your group and share with Pastor Ty (if you haven’t already):  
[pastorty@southshores.org](mailto:pastorty@southshores.org)

## Getting into Prayer .....Group time - 10 minutes

**Reach:** Pray God would reveal His truth to the people on your list.

**Grow:** Pray for that you would live the cruciform (cross-shaped) life of a true disciple.

**Empower:** Pray that God would empower more people at South Shores to protect, preserve and proclaim the gospel in the power of Christ’s Spirit.

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## ***Not Without the Cross***

***Matthew 16:13-28***

**I. The Christ** *Matthew 16:13-17*

**II. The Church** *Matthew 16:18-20*

**III. The Cross** *Matthew 16:21-28*

No \_\_\_\_\_ without a \_\_\_\_\_.

No \_\_\_\_\_ without a \_\_\_\_\_.

No \_\_\_\_\_ without a \_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_ is not the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Accept the Challenge:**

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***I never knew:***

***I need to change:***

***I should share:***

# GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of February 17, 2019

## Getting Started .....Group time - 15 minutes

1. Who is a person (famous, historical or personal) that you greatly admire their journey toward "success"? What do you admire about them?
  
2. Make a quick list of the top 5-7 descriptions of a Christian.

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

## Getting into God's Word .....Group time - 40 minutes

### Read Matthew 16:13-17

1. Why does Jesus want to know what other people think about Him? What were the leading theories?
  
2. Why does Jesus praise Peter? How did Peter come to know the truth?  
**See also: Matthew 11:25-27**

### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Who do you say Jesus is? List your top 5 names, titles or descriptors that represent your main understanding of who Jesus is:

### Read Matthew 16:18-20

3. Who is building the church and who does it belong to? Why is that important to remember?
  
4. What do the keys of the kingdom do? How should we understand that authority today?
  
5. Why didn't Jesus want them to tell others about His identity as the Christ?

### Read Matthew 16:21-28

6. How does Jesus define the type of Christ he will be? How is this different than expected?
  
7. What is Jesus saying about the shape and focus of the Christian life?
  
8. How does this idea of self-denial often get overlooked in popular Christianity?
  
9. How is Jesus' second coming both good news and bad news?