

# Life Group Leader's Guide

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For the week of October 8, 2017

## Quick Review

Pastor Mark discussed three distinguishing marks of a committed Christian, what are they? Of the three which do you believe ought to be a priority for Christians? Which is the most difficult to understand and apply?

1. Unending preoccupation with the glory of God.
2. Unfailing love for the children of God.
3. Unswerving loyalty to the Son of God.

## My Story

1. Consider a TV show or a movie you have seen recently and discuss how the characters demonstrated a deep commitment to an important relationship. If there is a specific and memorable scene that stands out to you, show it to your life group. Talk about the qualities you observe that demonstrate deep relational commitment.

Example – The Good Doctor trailer on ABC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYIZDTru55g>

In the video clip there is a man advocating for the young doctor. What are the words and actions that display a commitment to the relationship?

2. Take a few minutes to share a story when you saw a follower of Christ live out unfailing love for God or someone else.

## Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 16:24-28 and Luke 9:23-27 and answer the following questions.
  - What does it mean to deny self and pick up the cross daily?
  - According to these passages, what do we learn about commitment to Christ?
  - What is the potential cost and outcome of being a follower of Jesus?
  - If you are a follower of Christ, is this what you signed up for when you committed to following Jesus? If so, do you still believe that today? If not, what would it take to get you there?

In the Luke passage, Jesus states in previous verses that he will “suffer many things and rejected by the elders, chief priests, and teachers. He will also be killed and raised to life.” The things that happen to Jesus are representative of what it means to follow Jesus. In short, picking up your cross means identifying with the life of experience of Christ which produced persecution and hard times on the pathway of faithfulness.

2. Hebrews 11 is super fun passage to explore. Look at the verses below (pick only a few if your group is smaller). Briefly share how each person displayed commitment to God. Try to summarize the verse(s) with a few words or a simple sentence summary.
- Someone in the group create a master list from what is shared.
  - Discuss which qualities aspire or convict you to live for God more passionately.

<b>Biblical Person</b>	<b>Summary words or sentence</b>
Abel (11:4)	
Enoch (11:5-6)	
Noah (11:7)	
Abraham and family (11:8-12, 17-20)	
Jacob and Joseph (11:21-22)	
Moses, Israelites, Rahab (11:23-31)	
General (11:32-40)	

3. Read the following passages: Leviticus 19:18, 34, Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Matthew 22:34-40. Summarize these passages. Which is easier for you, loving God or loving others? Loving people in the church or those outside the church? Explain your answers.

In short, we are to love God and love others. According to Jesus these are the primary responsibilities of a follower of Christ. A life of faith can be categorized into these two actions.

