

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

2. THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Take some time to pray first and invite God into your discussions.

What stood out to you most from Sunday?

On Sunday we looked at Matthew 10.38-39 but it sits within the message Jesus gave his 12 disciples before sending them out to proclaim the Kingdom.

Read Matthew 10.5-42

- If you were one of Jesus' disciples how would you feel about being sent out with these words?
- Why do you think Jesus chooses to say this in this moment?
- What is it about Jesus that makes you want to follow him, even if it's hard? Have you had any particular experiences?
- How do you think you get to a place of being able to say 'whatever happens and whatever it means for my life, Jesus I choose you'?

C.S Lewis said: "Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ, and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in."

- Practically, what do you think it looks like to look for Jesus instead of yourself, to walk the road of self-denial instead of self-fulfillment?
- How could we do that this week?

BIG IDEA: The path to self-fulfilment is through self-denial. Taking up your cross for the sake of Christ is the only way to find your true self and live your best life.

To finish, read one of the gospel accounts of the cross and then use this to help you pray. You could use the reading as a small meditation or read it in small groups. But then take the time to pray and ask Jesus to help us see Him clearer and pick up our crosses in response.

Maybe also take some time to pray for the persecuted church around the world, who live a life of daily picking up their crosses for Jesus' sake.

There are some helpful resources here: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - World Watch List - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)