



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of March 11, 2024

1. Think of a time in your life when a parent, a friend, an employer, or a teacher tried to give you a warning. What was the warning about? Did you heed the warning, or did you ignore it? What happened in the end?
2. *Read Matthew 16:21-23.* What was the truth Peter shared that Jesus praised him for? When Jesus talked about His upcoming death, why was Peter so agitated and angry? How did Jesus respond to Peter's rebuke? Explain why Jesus said this.
3. What kind of mistakes and missteps can happen in our lives when we let human perspectives and secular thinking come before spiritual thinking? What practical steps can you take to make good decisions that please God and bring His blessing into your life? (see Proverbs 3:21-23; Psalm 119:105)
4. Jesus made a second prediction about His death in *Matthew 17:22-23* (READ). What additional insight does Jesus share in these verses that didn't appear in the first prediction? Why do you think Jesus is giving this information to His disciples in stages, and not all at once? When did the disciples finally understand everything related to Jesus' death and resurrection? (see John 2:22; 12:16)
5. Why were the disciples so downcast to hear about Jesus' death? What was their expectation about Jesus' coming as the Messiah? What were they hoping for as Israelite citizens?
6. Life has a way of bringing challenges, adversities, and troubles that we didn't see coming. In those moments, we can break down into tears, disappointment, or even depression— or we can exercise our faith and remember confidently that God is still in charge. Read Romans 8:28 and talk about how it applies to your life today.
7. Read *Matthew 20:17-19* and listen to Jesus' third prediction about His death. These few verses are packed with information. What critical details does Jesus' include here about what will happen to Him? Look at the verses that immediately follow Jesus' prediction. What were the disciples still fixated on?
8. Pastor Ryan said that a Christian will never make a difference for Jesus until he/she embraces "*More service and less self*" (see Matthew 20:28). What are some tangible ways that Christians can get involved in the ministry of service? What are some real-world places for service inside (or outside) of Wrightsdale?
9. Jesus was fully committed to you and He proved it by going to the Cross. How can you show your full commitment to Him? Explain your answers.

Jesus didn't come for power or politics, but to make the payment for our salvation.