

Be a Disciple  
Next Steps  
May 1, 2022

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God, thank you for the goodness in this moment and in this space. Be present among us so that we may lay down our burdens and take up your way. Help us to break the cycles that perpetuate fear, hatred, and pride, and give us a sense of your deep peace. Free us for joyful obedience. Amen.

*Quote*

*“For Christians, faith is a precious good, the most valuable personal and social resource. When it is left untapped, the common good suffers, not just the particular interests of Christians.” Miroslav Volf*

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

Name some of the talents and gifts of your congregants. Remember to think of some of the less obvious, like compassion and hospitality.

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Read Luke 9:23-25

- We are reading this through the lens of knowing about the death and resurrection of Jesus. However, how might these words be heard differently for the first followers of Jesus who did not know what was going to happen to him?
- Why might someone be ashamed of Jesus or his words at this part of his ministry? How might that be an issue today?
- How do you think this passage affected the ministry of the apostles?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Self-denial is about moving away from self-centeredness and the need to maintain control in our life. What obstacles to letting go of self-centeredness and need for control do you experience in life? How can God help you in your daily life?
- In what ways might we desire to “save ourselves”?
- What is the implication of the word “daily” in this passage? How does this affect you?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, stir in us a desire to use our gifts in a way that others will be blessed. Amen.