



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Life Group  
Discussion  
Guide

2/22/2026

Sermon Summary: Pastor Pamela reminded us that Lent is not spiritual performance but intentional realignment. In Mark 8, Jesus confronts Peter's misaligned vision of glory and power and invites his followers into something radically different: surrender, humility, and daily obedience. To deny ourselves is to step down from self-lordship and submit to Christ's lordship. To take up our cross is not a dramatic one-time act but a daily, costly posture of faithfulness. To follow Jesus is to align our direction, purpose, and mission with His. The road of surrender may feel contrary to our culture's definitions of greatness, but it is the only road that leads to resurrection life.

Conversation Starter: What's something small in your daily life that you secretly like to control, the thermostat, the playlist, the schedule, the route you drive, etc.?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,

As we gather tonight, quiet our hearts. Expose the places where we have drifted into our own definitions of glory, success, and control. Teach us what it truly means to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow You. Realign us with Your concerns over merely human ones.

In Your name we pray, amen.

Read Scripture together: Mark 8:34 - 9:1

## 3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

## Discussion Questions:

Earlier in Mark 8, Peter rebukes Jesus because he didn't like what Jesus said about suffering.

- Why do you think Peter struggled so much with Jesus' vision of glory?
- Where do you see similar misunderstandings about "greatness" or "power" in our culture today?

Pastor Pamela said denying yourself is about stepping down from self-lordship.

- What does "self-lordship" look like in everyday life?
- Where is it hardest for you to surrender control?

Taking up our cross is not one dramatic moment but a daily posture.

- What might daily cross-bearing look like in your work, family life, leadership, or friendships?

To follow Jesus means shared direction, shared mission, shared purpose.

- How would someone know by looking at your week that you are following Jesus?

Jesus says losing your life for His sake leads to finding it.

- Why is this so hard for us to trust?
- Have you experienced surrender leading to unexpected life or freedom? When?

Jesus tells Peter, "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

- What are some "human concerns" that most easily dominate your thinking?
- How can Lent become a season of retraining your heart toward God's concerns?
- What practical rhythms (fasting, prayer, confession, generosity) help reorient your vision?

Memory Verse: Mark 8:35 (NIV)

"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it"

Closing Prayer: Father, We confess that we often want glory without surrender and victory without obedience. Forgive us for the times we have clung to our own definitions of greatness. Teach us to deny ourselves with courage, To take up our cross with faith, And to follow Jesus one day at a time. Realign our hearts with Your concerns. Lead us on the road that goes through the cross to resurrection. In Jesus' name, Amen.