



July 17/18

For Small Groups Meeting the Week of July 18th

BIG IDEA: IT'S NOT ABOUT ME

CONNECT (5-10 minutes)

1. Self-improvement is a continual process. What would you like to learn? Feel free to supply your own.

I want to learn how to:

Hit a golf ball over 250 yards
Surf
Train my dog
Shoot a gun
Fly a plane
Work on my own car

milk a cow
play a musical instrument
ride a motorcycle
restore a classic car
dance
take great pictures

GROW in Christ: (45 minutes)

As we continue the series, "At the Movies", let's consider these verses from the Bible.

Read aloud the following passages from the Bible:

³⁴ *Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.*

Mark 8:34

³⁵ *If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.* ³⁶ *And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?* ³⁷ *Is anything worth more than your soul?*

Mark 8:35-37

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Darius pointed out five areas we can be selfish with: money, possessions, time, prayer life, and relationships. Which one is the biggest struggle for you, and why?
2. Jesus came to “seek and save the lost” but the only way to do that was through the cross. What are the implications of taking up your cross?
3. We can look at cross-bearing and repentance as something negative. But the pastor encouraged us with the idea that the area we are least selfish in is where we experience God’s greatest blessings. Share a time when you changed your mind to God’s way of thinking or reached out beyond what was comfortable for you and you were blessed.
4. Discuss the paradox that if you give up your life you will save it. That goes against the culture that says, “Look out for number one”. How can you keep your life by giving it away?
5. We were encouraged to repent, to make a mental u-turn and change our mind. What do you think God wants you to change your mind about?

SERVE others: (10 minutes)

Review the main points of this week's Bible message.

**At The Movies
Week 3: Despicable me**

In the areas of your life where you are the least selfish, don't be surprised to experience God's greatest blessings

Next Step:

If you want to make sure that selfishness doesn't get the best of you, give away something that is valuable to you here on this earth

1. In response to the challenge in this week's message, what could you give to break the hold of selfishness in you?

SHARE Christ: (10 minutes)

Memory Verse:

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)

WORSHIP

Answer this question:

How can we help you in prayer this week?
