



**REFLECT:**  
(20 minutes minimum)

10. When you compare your Christian life to what Jesus calls you to do—to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him—how do you feel?

- Like yawning
- Like crawling under the rug
- Like starting over
- Like going for it
- Like praying
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

11. How would the Laurel church be different if we all took discipleship seriously? How would *you* be different if *you* took discipleship seriously?

12. What needs to be the next step in your spiritual life?

- To say ‘no’ to the competing allegiances in my life
- To correct my misconceptions of who Jesus is
- To do remedial work on the basics—prayer, Bible reading, etc.
- To confess my faith in Jesus publicly like Peter did
- To “lose” my life and turn away from my self-focus for Christ’s sake
- To be more involved in church, Life Groups, etc.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



May 9, 2010  
Non-Negotiables #6

**DISCIPLESHIP IS THE  
CALL OF GOD**

These guides usually have more material than a Life Group will be able to address in the allotted time. Any questions you don’t have time to cover in your group can be used in your personal study this week.



**OPEN:**  
(2 minutes)

1. When working on a group project, what excuses do people use to postpone or avoid fulfilling their obligations?
  
2. If the people who really know you were asked what one word best describes you, what would you say?





Read Mark 8:27-36

3. What does “discipleship” mean?

4. Why do you think Jesus asked his disciples who people said he was?
- He was searching for who he was.
  - He was concerned about what people thought about him.
  - He wanted to find out how well he was revealing himself.
  - He wanted the disciples to think about who *they* thought he was.
  - Jesus liked everything out in the open, including false conceptions about who he was.
5. Why did Jesus say, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"?

6. What does it mean to deny yourself? What does it mean to take up your cross? What does it mean to follow Christ?

7. When we talk about grace, we often focus on forgiveness and being saved from Hell. Is there more to the message of grace than that? If we're saved by grace, then what?

8. Do you think the quote (see box below) about cheap grace from Dietrich Bonhoeffer is accurate?

9. Can you be a Christian but not be a *disciple* of Jesus? Do you think people try to separate the two ideas? Explain.



**Worth Quoting:**

“The upshot of it all is that my only duty as a Christian is to leave the world for an hour or so on Sunday morning to go to church to be assured that my sins are all forgiven. I need no longer try to follow Christ, for cheap grace has freed me from that.”

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*