

ONE CONVERSATION

Parents: Begin by reading Matthew 16:13-26. Read the surrounding verses and take notes on anything you would like to mention as you talk with your son or daughter. Jot down a few questions you have for your student based on this Scripture passage. Consider what it means to “take up your cross” in your own life. Pray for your student and ask God to give him or her wisdom to live for Him in their school, church, and neighborhood.

By nature, as sinful human beings, we are all worshipers of self and we live in a culture that encourages us to treasure ourselves above all things. Jesus, however, said that anyone who wishes to follow Him must “deny himself” and “take up his cross” (Matt. 16:24). To truly follow Jesus means to set aside your own desires and agendas. Jesus is the Messiah and He came to establish God’s kingdom on earth (Matt. 6:9). When we understand that, denying our selfish desires and agendas is not irritating and oppressive, but rather joyful and life-giving. Jesus came to wake us up to the reality of who He is and who He designed us to be. Jesus is the Messiah and He is worthy of all that we are and all that we have.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Jesus is the Messiah—He is worthy of all that we are and all that we have.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Journal a list of ways you might deny yourself this week in order to serve others and point them to Christ. After you have compiled a list, spend some time praying, asking God to help you see that Jesus is worthy of all that you are and all that you have. Circle one of the ideas on your list and make plans to put it into practice this week.
- › **Memorize:** Matthew 16:24
- › **Pray:** Thank God for demonstrating His love for you through the death and resurrection of His Son. Ask Him to deepen your love for Him to such a degree that you find joy in sacrificing your own agenda and desires for the sake of Jesus. Pray also that He would give you a heart for helping the people around you find their hope, purpose, and joy in Christ.