



Week 4: Drop the Ball

At some point, we all face a choice of whether to remain in the shallows of faith or journey to the depths. The truth is we can't do both. We either settle for the shallows or take the plunge to grow deeper. In the final message of this series, we'll discuss the one choice required to deepen our faith.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you experienced where following Jesus cost you something (i.e., a reputation, a relationship, a sacrifice of something you wanted)? If so, share your example. As you reflect on the choice you made, was it worth it?
2. Comfort is the enemy of deep. Have you seen this principle at work in your relationships with other people? Have you seen or do you currently see this in your relationship with Jesus? If yes, in what ways?
3. Read Matthew 16:21–25 aloud in your group. For a moment, imagine being one of Jesus' followers sitting around him in this moment. You don't know that Jesus will soon lay down his life. Read these verses again aloud in your group with this context in mind. What do you think they felt hearing these words without knowing what was to come? How could these words relate to your life today?
4. In the above verses, Peter had a plan in mind for what Jesus should do. Jesus responded by telling Peter to get out of his way. Is it possible that you are currently getting in the way of something God wants to do in your life? What could it look like for you to get out of the way and trust his plans?
5. Do you really believe that Jesus wants to give you a life that's better than you can achieve on your own? If yes, what does it practically look like to live in the confidence of that truth?
6. If the God of the universe created you with a purpose in mind, wouldn't his version of life to the full be better than the life you settle for on your own?
 - If you are a curious skeptic, what are you really waiting for to trust Jesus? Could now be the time to trust him? What's your next step?
 - If you are a follower of Jesus and you're a hungry novice or restless veteran, is there an area of life you need to completely surrender to Jesus and trust him for the better life that's found in him? What's your next step?
 - If you are a follower of Jesus and you've gone all-in with him, how do you remain out of the shallows? Is there someone in your life you can help navigate deeper waters?

Moving Forward

Choosing to step out of the shallows into a deeper faith isn't just a one-time decision we make. It's a decision we have to choose again and again through different seasons of life. On our own, we are capable

of drifting toward the shallows. How can your group encourage you to remain out of the shallows and to pursue the better life Jesus offers us when we go all-in with him?