

# MISSION ESSENTIALS

4 Bible studies to help  
your small group discover  
God's character and his  
purposes for the world



# Study 4. Characteristics of a disciple (2): Sacrifice

*Sacrifice as a vital  
characteristic of  
following Christ*





**Getting started:** Have you recently heard of any stories on social media, TV or news of real-life examples of people sacrificing themselves for someone else? How was it portrayed in the media? How did it make you feel?





## Question 1

**Read Philippians 2:6-8:** “...who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”





**Read Mark 10:45:** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”





How did the Son of God, the author of life behave here on earth? What marked him out? What mindset are we called to have?





## Question 2

**Read Matthew 16:24-25:** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.’”





- What does it mean to deny ourselves?
- What does our culture highly value?
- What temptations do we face in our everyday lives that are opposite to denying ourselves and taking up our crosses?





## Question 3

**Read Matthew 16:26:** “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”





What does Matthew 16:26 mean?  
How might we be aiming to 'gain  
the whole world' in our lives?  
How might we forfeit our souls?





## Question

**Read Matthew 16:27:** “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”





- Do we really believe that the Son of Man will return?
- If we truly believe that, how will it change the way we live life?
- What does this verse say about rewards?
- On what basis will we be rewarded?





## Question 5

**Read Matthew 28:18-20:** “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”





**Read Romans 15:20:** “It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.”





What can we learn from these verses?  
What has God called us to do?





**Making it real:** The Karimojong live in Karamoja, northeast Uganda. The Karimojong is one of the poorest and most under-developed peoples in Uganda; they are also spiritually in desperate need to hear of the Father's love. Even though many might identify as Christian, the reality is that there are few indigenous followers of Christ.





Pray that the Karimojong would turn to Christ and rather than raiding for cattle would become fishers of men. Please pray! God is working among the Karimojong in exciting ways; pray the Lord brings his healing and light to the Karimojong.





## **Bringing it home:**

What has struck you from today's study?

If you feel comfortable, share what you feel challenged by.

God's Word challenges us not just to read the Word, but to obey it (Matthew 7:24-27). Discuss different ways that we can respond.





## Three ways to make a difference:

1. Commit to pray regularly for unreached people groups.
2. Sending workers takes financial resources. Could you consider giving to enable someone else can go?
3. Could you consider going to an unreached people group yourself?



For resources to help you think more about God's heart to reach the lost in your personal prayer time, visit: [\*\*eu.aimint.org/resources\*\*](https://eu.aimint.org/resources)

