

Create



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Provide pens/pencils and paper for the writing option or keep an ongoing journal for participants to return to or take home each week.
- Provide and keep a collection of art supplies for each week including but not limited to: crayons, chalk, color pencils, markers, glue, tissue paper, colored construction paper, paint brushes, watercolors, finger paints, scissors, and a variety of scrapbooking paper and old magazines.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Breath of God

Ask someone to read Matthew **16:21-28**. Then, show the *Bible Background Video*.

Say: Our lesson this week is a continuation of the story about Peter. Peter is learning what it means to become a true disciple to Jesus. Most of us would find it difficult to blindly follow someone, even Jesus. Likewise, Peter is having trouble grasping God's plan for Jesus and struggles with his own feelings and emotions. Jesus reminds Peter that being a disciple is no easy task and much sacrifice is involved. What does it mean to truly be a disciple of Christ- to follow Christ where ever he may lead you?

Distribute copies of this page. Invite each participant to choose either the **Writing**, **Visual**, or **Outside the Box** approach and spend the next 20-25 minutes with that experience.

✔ Create — Writing

Think about Jesus' words to his disciples, "If you want to be my follower, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." Write about what each of those statements means in your own life. What does it mean to deny yourself, to take up your cross, to follow Jesus?

✔ Create — Visual

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Think about what you give up to be a follower of Christ. What is it that you sacrifice each day to have a relationship with God? Create a piece of art depicting you "denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Jesus." Challenge yourself not to use any religious images like crosses, Christian fish,

doves, etc. Instead, use images that represent actual sacrifices in your life. Name your image.

✔ Create — Outside the Box

Using the art supplies provided, create:

Let's welcome Peter to the Twenty-First Century and the world of social media! Create a page using the art supplies provided that looks like a blog, not just any blog... Peter's Blog. Write out a profile or bio for Peter in one of the margins. While all the details of the page are important, make sure you focus your time on Peter's blog post. Write an entry from Peter about his conversation with Jesus from Matthew 16:21-28. Make sure to include Peter's thoughts on what it means to be a disciple and follow Jesus.

✔ Share

Call the group together. Ask participants to share their creations and their meaning.

✔ Close

Offer a prayer thanking God for God's patience while we learn to what it means to become true followers of Jesus. Ask God to continue to teach us about discipleship.

(After the session, consider finding a way to share the creations of the group- post pictures on Facebook, on a church website, or in a portfolio/frames kept either in a public place in the church or in your group's special gathering place).

by Carra Hughes Greer