

DESCENDING INTO GREATNESS

“The Flatliners”

- 1. Review last week’s prayer requests and update each other**
- 2. Review the Big Idea:** What did you hear this morning?

It can be pretty overwhelming to take time to think about all that Jesus suffered and endured...and even more intense to realize that He did all that just for me! Jesus loved us so deeply that He allowed Himself to be tortured so that we could experience that love for ourselves, in a personal and intimate way. The journey of experiencing God’s love doesn’t end there, because God also wants to include us in His amazing plan to share that love with others. In order to do that we have to take a good hard look at how Jesus went about showing us his love, and realize that it will take incredible sacrifice from us as well. As we learned this week, that in God’s Kingdom, life comes to others when people die to themselves.

TO FULLY EXPERIENCE GOD’S POWER AT WORK IN MY LIFE, I NEED TO...

1. EMBRACE HIS SACRIFICE FOR MYSELF

“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.”

Romans 3:23-25a [NLT]

2. EMULATE HIS SACRIFICE FOR OTHERS

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had: 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 human being, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

Philippians 2:3-8 [TNIV]

- **As you listened to all the things that Jesus went through to offer us forgiveness and new life, what impact did that have on you?**
- **Does that (the things Jesus suffered) affect the way you live your life? Should it? How?**

- ***When you think about everything Jesus sacrificed for us, why is it so hard to make sacrifices for others?***
- ***What sacrifices might God be calling you to make to help others experience the forgiveness and life change that God is offering?***

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE ON THE CROSS TO BRING GOD'S KINGDOM TO EARTH?

BECAUSE IN GOD'S KINGDOM, LIFE COMES TO OTHERS WHEN PEOPLE DIE TO THEMSELVES.