

Adult Study Guide for May 23, 2021
Series: *No More Bogus Jesus*; Message: *Death to Self*

Goal: To find the real treasure of life – to live *with* God in Christ.

Key Verses: *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. – Matthew 16:24 (NIV)*

1. What makes a real-life treasure hunt so attractive? In what ways is life is a lot like a treasure hunt? Where do people look for purpose and meaning?

2. Read Matthew 13:44. In this *Parable of the Hidden Treasure*, Jesus gives us a vision of what it is like when a person discovers purpose and meaning. What does this verse teach us about what we need to give up in order to possess what is most important?

3. Read Matthew 16:24-26. What makes these verses so difficult to accept and put into practice? (Matthew 7:14) G.K. Chesterton famously said, “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” Why is this true? How can death be the catalyst for beginning life with Jesus?

4. Read Galatians 2:20. In what ways is the adoption of the Christian faith like getting married? Why is it necessary to take on a new identity to be faithful to the vows we take?

5. Read Romans 6:4-7. How is Christian baptism similar to a death? How does this death open the door to new life, spiritually speaking?

6. Read Romans 6:8-10. What is necessary for us to live our lives *with* Christ today? Consider the alternatives to living *with* Christ from the book, “With” by Skye Jethani: 1) Life *from* God, 2) Live *over* God, 3) Life *for* God, and 4) Life *under* God. Why are these alternatives bound to disappoint us? Why is life *with* Christ worth far more than any sacrifice you might make to acquire it?