

Concordia Seminary - Saint Louis

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Table Talk: Family Devotions

Resources for Ministry

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018. Take up the Cross

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TABLE TALK

Take up the Cross

Prepare:

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As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (based on Hebrews 12:2)

C: Look to Jesus,

R: the founder and perfecter of our faith

C: who endured the cross, despising its shame,

R: and is seated at the right hand of God.

Read: Mark 8:27-38 (ESV)

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

34 And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Reflect:

Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah; however, he did not fully understand what being the Messiah meant. Being the Messiah meant Jesus took up His cross; being His disciple means we take up our cross and follow Him.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (Mark 8:27-38) means for you as a family.

Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.

Pray:

.....
The head of the household prays:

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to be the Messiah, to die on the cross and rise on the third day. As his disciples, help us to take up our cross follow Jesus. Amen.