

UNCOMFORTABLE

WEEK 1 STUDY QUESTIONS

American culture is a culture of comfort. It's present almost everywhere we look. We're encouraged to do what we want, when we want, with whomever we want. If something is uncomfortable, we want to avoid it at all costs. The Christian faith, though, is just that: uncomfortable (even more so in this season of COVID). This week we begin to look at what it means to embrace the uncomfortable call of Christianity.

One thing we have to recognize is how the consumer mindset of most Americans has shaped even how we view church. One of the reasons for this is a worldview that is called Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. This worldview can be broken down into 5 parts:

1. **There is a God who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.**
2. **God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.**
3. **The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.**
4. **God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when we need God to resolve a problem.**
5. **Good people go to [heaven](#) when they die.^[4]**

How have you seen these ideas impact the American church?

How do you think these ideas have shaped your own faith journey?

Read Luke 9:23-25

We will look at the importance of embracing the Uncomfortable Cross more next week. For this week's study, we will focus on the other things Jesus is stating in this passage.

What would it look like for you to deny yourself on a daily basis?

What do you think Jesus means in verse 24?

What do you think Jesus means by gaining the whole world?

In our consumeristic American culture, what does it look like to 'gain the whole world' and yet lose our soul?

In your own life, what moments have you had to choose between gaining more of this world or growing in your call to follow Jesus?

Read *Galatians 5:13*

What might it look like for us to use the freedom we have to indulge our own sinful nature?

What would it look like for the church to serve on another in love?

Personal Reflection Questions to think about this week:

- Am I embracing the uncomfortable call of Jesus to deny myself, or am I following Jesus to try to enhance my comfort?
- Am I embracing the uncomfortable community called the church, or am I using the church to meet my needs?

Prayer

Father, thank you that You love us enough to call us out of our sinful patterns of self-focus, and into a different way of life. Help me to believe that this way of life modeled by Jesus is actually better. Jesus, thank you for showing us what it means to live a Kingdom lifestyle. Holy Spirit, be the guide that the church needs to show us what it means to embrace the uncomfortable call of Jesus. May it all be to the honor and glory of God. In Jesus name, Amen.