

# UNCOMFORTABLE

## WEEK 2 STUDY QUESTIONS

Last week we began an Uncomfortable journey together. This week we are walking through the idea of embracing the Uncomfortable Cross.

### **Read Mark 8:34-35**

This is very similar to the passage in Luke we looked at last week. What strikes you about the way Mark writes his account of this discipleship call?

Bob Lenz shared with us that the Cross was a device used for execution. He then highlighted how ridiculous the call of Jesus must have sounded. It's almost like Jesus saying to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century listener "Deny yourself, get in your electric chair, and follow me."

When it's put that way, does it change the feeling of this call for you in any way? How so?

### **Read Romans 12:1**

Paul wrote to the Romans to share with them what it means to understand and apply the Gospel.

In your own words, describe what you think Paul is saying here.

What would it look like for you to "offer your body as a living sacrifice"?

What do you think Paul means by "this is your true and proper worship"? (Some translations say this differently)

Are there any other Scriptures that this reminds you of? Which ones?

**Read these lyrics from George Bernard's 1913 hymn "The Old Rugged Cross":**

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction to me.**

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.**

Jesus willingly left behind the splendor of Heaven to die upon that Cross- for every single one of us. Following Him means we join Him in taking up that Cross, that we may have life.

**Personal Reflection Questions to think about this week:**

- Have I had moments where I have chosen to avoid the cross rather than gladly bear "its shame and reproach". What has that looked like in my life?
- What would it look like to take up my cross daily? In what practical ways might God be calling me to do this in my life?

**Prayer**

*Father, thank you for the Cross. Jesus, thank you for bearing the Cross. And though you have invited me to also take up the Cross, I thank you that I no longer need to bear the weight of sin. Holy Spirit, show me what it means to become a living sacrifice. Help me to not avoid any suffering You might be calling me to embrace. Help me to find ways to deny myself that I might be a blessing to others. May all that I say and do point back to You. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.*