



Southern Sayin's—Week Three: That Dog Won't Hunt

Connect: Maybe you have a hunting dog, a lazy dog or something in between. Share a fun dog story with the group.

Grow

1. Read **Matthew 16:13-20**. Why did Jesus initiate this conversation with His disciples? Was He concerned about public opinion or was He getting at something deeper in their hearts? What exactly was He trying to communicate?
2. Some of the things we need to know *about* Jesus can only be learned by *following* Jesus. What things had the disciples learned from the past few years of watching, listening to, and following in the steps of Jesus?
3. There are some realities you can only learn from experience. What's something you've read about or researched but never actually experienced? Do we ever do the same with following Jesus?
4. Read **Matthew 16:21-28**. Maybe you haven't physically taken Jesus aside and reprimanded him like Peter did, but how have you told Jesus that you don't like His plans? Have you ever fallen so in love with the way you think things should play out that you refuse to believe God might have something else in mind?
5. What is the difference between kindness and niceness? What is the difference between self-care and self-sacrifice?
6. Jesus is either the king of everything, or He's the king of nothing. Is there an area in your life where perhaps, like Peter, you are trying to put Jesus in His place?
7. Do you really believe that Jesus' agenda is better than yours? Ask yourself, "Am I letting Jesus lead or am I trying to lead Jesus?"

Pray: Confess to God that we don't trust him at times and that we often choose our comfort over doing what He wants us to do. Admit that we can't walk without His grace and His loving kindness. Ask God to help you see the joy in following Him.

Next: "Life lived for me, with my agenda": That dog *won't* hunt. "Life lived for others, with Jesus leading me": That dog *will* hunt. Take inventory this week to see if you are letting God lead or if you are trying to do it on your own terms. Challenge yourself to memorize Matthew 16:24-27.