



Fine Print: Week 1 — “Die Daily”

CONNECT: Are you the type of person to read the “fine print” of an instructions booklet before assembling something, or do you just “figure it out” without reading?

GROW:

1. Have you ever skimmed or skipped the fine print of something (contract, medication, product, service, etc.), and it cost you? What did you learn from the experience?
2. Has there ever been a moment or a season when you felt like your walk with Jesus wasn’t “as advertised”? Were you angry, confused, discouraged, doubtful, or frustrated? What did God teach you in the process?
3. **Read Matthew 16:21-26** and answer each of the following questions:
 - a. Our culture tells us to serve ourselves; Jesus instructs us to **deny ourselves**. How have you been tempted to serve yourself rather than deny yourself?
 - b. Our culture tells us to sit on the couch; Jesus instructs us to **pick up our cross**. How have you been tempted to choose comfort over the cross?
 - c. Our culture tells us to follow our hearts; Jesus instructs us to **follow Him**. How have you been tempted to follow your heart instead of Jesus?
4. **Read Matthew 4:1-11**. In this passage, Jesus models for us what it means to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow God in the midst of temptation. What’s significant about this interaction between Jesus and Satan? Based on Jesus’ example, what practical tools can we use when we’re tempted to choose self-preservation?
5. **Read Matthew 11:28-30** and **John 15:1-8**. Our doing for God (and others) can’t outweigh our being with God. In other words, we can’t pour from an empty cup because we can’t give what we don’t possess. How do we establish healthier rhythms like Jesus, who led a life of self-sacrifice **and** prioritized time away with God?

PRAY: Read, pray, and meditate on **John 15:9-13**. Ask God to reveal how He’s calling you to deny yourself and who He’s calling you to selflessly serve during this season.

NEXT: Make a daily commitment this week to deny yourself of at least one personal comfort (e.g. binge watching Netflix, excessive time on social media, etc.) for the good of someone else.