



Lose Your Life to Gain Your Life

MAIN IDEA

- **The Christian life is a daily dying to self, surrendering our wills to Jesus, and walking in obedience to Him wherever He may lead.**
- **Jesus promises eternal life for all who follow Him.**

MEMORY VERSES

...*“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”*
—Luke 9:23-24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 16:11
- 2) Matthew 19:29
- 3) Luke 9:23-24
- 4) 2 Corinthians 4:17



LESSON SUMMARY

Missionary Jim Elliot’s famous quote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose,” is all the more convicting and convincing when you consider that he was murdered as he sought to bring the Gospel to an unreached people group. Following Jesus did not give Jim Elliot earthly wealth or health—no prosperity Gospel. Nor did his faith demonstrate the kind of easy-believe-ism so commonly seen in the contemporary church: “Jesus loves me and is my Savior and friend,” but tragically devoid of, “Jesus is Master and Lord of my life.” Jesus’ call to deny oneself, pick up your cross, and follow Him is an imperative truth that our students must understand. Jesus’ call to lose your life in order to truly gain it must be understood with all of its obligations and rich rewards.

In this lesson, we explored the meaning of these two calls from Jesus, and then pointed to the life of another missionary, Eric Liddell, to show how God led and empowered him little by little, step by step, to fully surrender his life to Christ.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would have a life that is increasingly and joyfully surrendered to Lord Jesus.*
- *that your child would carefully consider Jesus’ call to deny yourself, pick up your cross, and follow Him.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- **As your parents, would we ask you to drive the car today? Would we expect you to go grocery shopping for the family by yourself? Would we tell you to fix the roof? Why not?** Read and talk about Psalm 103:13-14 and Matthew 11:28-30. **What do these verses tell us about how God regards His children, and about how Jesus regards His disciples?** Next read Luke 9:23-24. Point out that Jesus will never lead you where you cannot follow, in the strength He provides. Like a good father, He is compassionate toward His children and understands their weaknesses and limitations. But, even at a young age, we can begin to learn what it means to “die” to little things and deny the right to do things our own way. **What help has God given all His children?** [the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the help of other Christians, etc.]

- Read Luke 9:23-24 again. Do you think that there are any little or lesser things that Jesus wants you to “die to”? For example, does He want you to deny yourself some of the TV you watch? What could you spend time doing in its place? Have you ever had a situation like Eric Liddell’s where a sporting event was held on a Sunday morning and you were tempted to participate anyway? Does Jesus want you to “die to” your obsession with sports? How can learning to deny yourself these things help you to follow Jesus in more difficult things in the future?
- Emphasize that Luke 9:23-24 is not saying that we should be looking for ways to physically die and be killed. More importantly, Jesus wants us to die to “self.” Are there situations in which it is hard for you to deny yourself? Do you ever resist doing things Jesus’ way? If you choose to do things your own way and “save your life,” what does Jesus say will be the consequence? Have you seriously considered Jesus’ words? How should you respond? Is there anything causing you to resist submitting to Jesus? Have a time of prayer with your child.

ACTION STEPS

This week, write out Luke 9:23 using your best handwriting. Next, with your parents’ help, prayerfully consider some things you need to “die to” or “deny yourself” this week. What kinds of attitudes, words, and actions would show that you desire to follow Jesus?

**LUKE
9:23**

I NEED TO “DIE TO”...

I NEED TO “DENY MYSELF”...

I MUST FOLLOW JESUS BY...