

CP— 11/17/24

Never Say “Never”

1. Never say never to a cross of death. (Matthew 16:21–24)

*Peter wanted a crossless Christ.

*Jesus must bear His cross for us to be saved. We must bear our cross to follow Jesus.

*What are you saying to Jesus about dying?

2. Never say never to a towel of service. (John 13:5–8, 14–15)

*Peter refused to let Jesus serve him, but Jesus must serve him with His death to cleanse Peter from sin.

*As Jesus humbly served in selfless humility, He calls us to do the same.

*What are you saying to Jesus about serving?

3. Never say never to a vine of dependence. (Matthew 26:30–35)

*Peter was totally confident in himself to stay loyal to Christ. He failed miserably.

*Jesus offers Himself for us to abide in Him. Only by depending on Him can we remain loyal.

*What are you saying to Jesus about abiding?

4. Never say never to a world that needs Christ. (Acts 10:9–15)

*By viewing certain animals as unclean, Peter needed to see the gospel was for all peoples.

*Jesus calls His church to share the gospel with all creation. All are invited!

*What are you saying to Jesus about the world?

Small Group Discussion

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?

2. Discuss our habit of saying “no” or “never” to Jesus when He speaks to us/leads us to do something. Why do we often first respond in this way? Discuss as a group.

3. In each of the four passages, what was Peter saying “never” to? What was Jesus teaching Peter in each passage? Which “never” statement stands out most to you? Why?
4. What was the connection between Peter’s self confidence and Jesus teaching about the vine and branches (John 15:1–5)? Discuss our lofty view of ourselves and why we think of ourselves so highly. What is our only hope to be loyal to Jesus?
5. Next week is Thanksgiving. Spend some time as a group sharing what you are most thankful for in your lives. Encourage one another to be thankful and spend some time praying for each other, thanking the Lord for all His blessings/