

# FBC Groups Ministry Discussion Guide

## **Closer to the Cross:**

### **A Journey from Death to Life**

#### **Part One: With a King Who is Faithful, Matthew 16:21–23**

Who do you say that Jesus is? Jesus first asked the question in Matthew 16:15, and it has been the most life-changing and destiny-defining question ever since. Consider your answer based on these two challenges: (1) the tendency to answer based on personal expectations and conveniences about Jesus; and (2) the reality that any answer will require a step of faith. Jesus helps us get to the heart of the question with a closer look at the three times He predicted His own death. We begin with the prediction that followed the discovery of His Messianic identity. Read Matthew 16:21–23.

#### **From the First Prediction of His Death, We Discover that:**

Jesus is a king who would be faithful to the point of physical death

Jesus is a king who would be faithful to the point of human disagreement

Jesus is a king who would be faithful to the point of godly devotion

#### **Questions for Group Discussion:**

1. What are some of the common opinions about who Jesus is?
2. How have those opinions and your experiences influenced your view of Jesus?
3. As a king, what kind of king did Peter and others want Jesus to be?
4. How did Jesus' commitment to physical death change that expectation?
5. What does His commitment to death teach us about our greatest need?
6. How have you tried to impose your own expectations on Jesus?
7. Describe a time when you had to do something difficult despite the outcome.
8. What ways can the church be a building block for Jesus in our community?

#### **Final Thoughts and Closing Prayer:**

What will I do this week to follow Jesus rather than expecting Him to follow me?

How will I live better and help others do the same because of this study?

#### **Notes & Reflections:**