

## Outreach

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Look

Our past experiences can have a dramatic effect on where we focus our attention in the present. Be they good or bad, some of those experiences even shape our core values of what is most important.

1. What is a past experience that you feel had a strong influence on your values?
2. In what way do you regard that experience as either good or bad?
3. What's a recent example of how that experience continues to influence you?

### Book

#### Matthew 16:21–28

In this pivotal moment for the disciples, Jesus delivers news that is hard to swallow. Peter's shock is expressed in the form of a rebuke to Jesus, but reveals an underlying fear.

1. When Jesus says that one "must deny themselves", how does this apply to Peter in the preceding context?
2. What does it mean for one to "take up their cross"?
3. In v27, what is the implication of the phrase "He will reward each person according to what they have done"?

### Took

The Gospel calls us to action, and one form of that action is outreach. Our own personal theology is made public when we manifest our faith in action outside of our church community. In doing this, we not only shine a light of faith to others, but can learn about our own faith.

1. What sort of outreach have you done in the past that you experienced real joy from?
2. What role does outreach have in your faith life currently?
3. What is one (perhaps small) act of outreach you can participate in this week?