

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) In this passage Jesus talks about being glorified, but he means his death on the cross. Can you see the difference between sacrificing for glory, and sacrifice as glory? Can you think of an example of each from your life?

Sacrifice as glory: another way to understand this is to ask yourself where you are giving something up without the expectation of gaining anything from it, other than honor from God.

b) How would you explain verse 25 to someone? Have you seen the paradox Jesus is talking about in your own life (love life = lose it, hate life = gain eternal life)?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What does Jesus' seed metaphor teach us about God and the nature of his love? Can you think of other examples from nature that reflect life coming from death?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In verse 24 how is Jesus explaining his death to us? What happens if he doesn't die on the cross? What happens if he does?

b) Why is it so important to first see Jesus as our Savior BEFORE we try to follow him in his pattern of dying to live?

APPLICATION

a) What might you need to let go of (die to) in order to live a sacrificial life for others?

b) How might you have a "seed like" role in the church, or Grace Gives?

FIGHTER VERSES: 1 Corinthians 12:18-20.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his self-sacrificing love.
- Confess ways that you have lived for yourself rather than for others.
- Thank Jesus for going to the cross alone for you and doing what only he could do.
- Ask God to help you to trust the soil of his grace and love to help you grow – not your own efforts.