

OPENING QUESTIONS

- How often do you think about the death of Christ?
- How often do you think about your own death?

READ TOGETHER

Mark 8:27-38

BIG IDEA

The apprentice of Jesus must embrace death to live.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

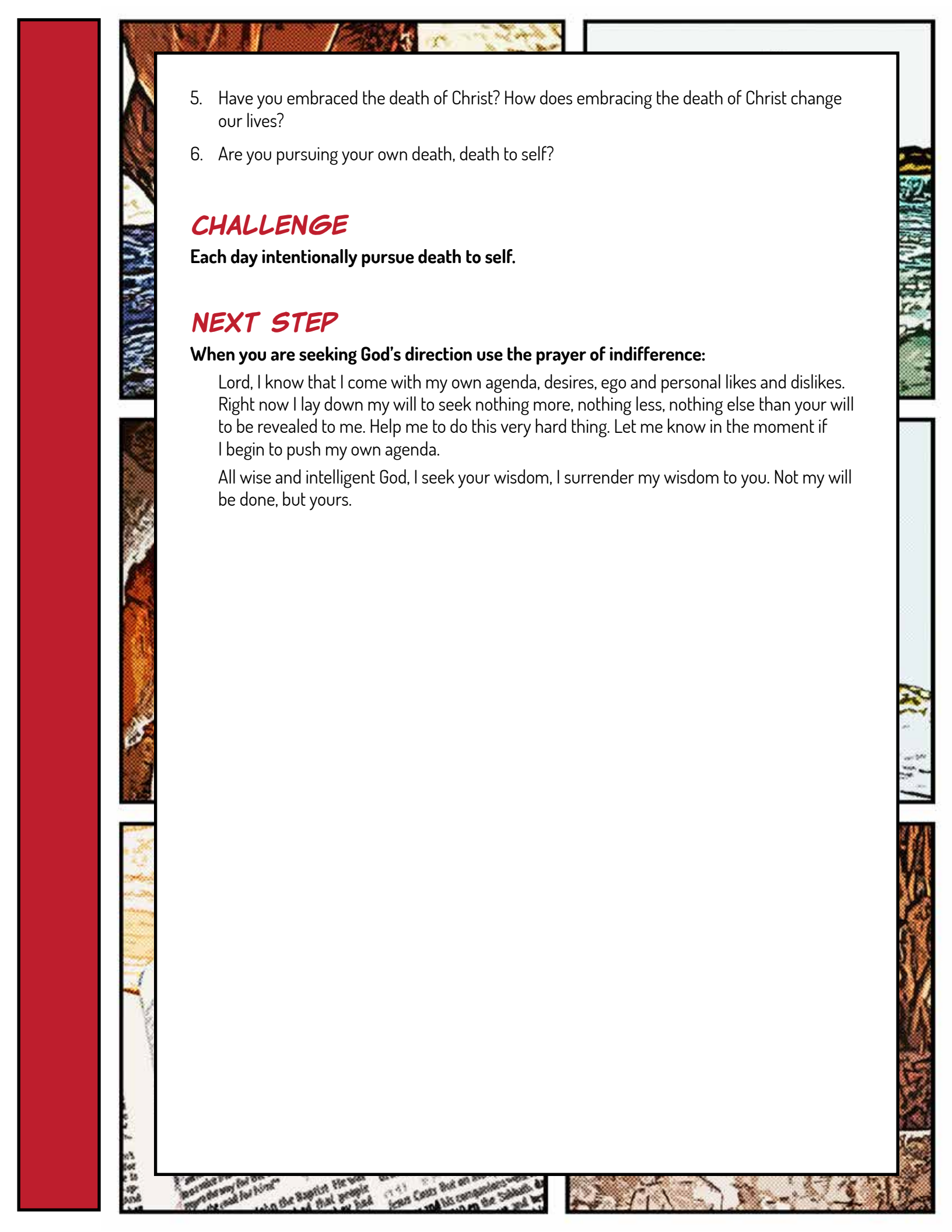
1. 8:27-30
 - a) Peter was correct in his assessment that Jesus was the Messiah. What did the disciples expect Jesus to do? (set up an earthly Kingdom)
 - b) Why do you think Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him?
2. 8:31-33
 - a) Jesus told the disciples that he **MUST** suffer and die. How much did the disciples have riding on Jesus being the kind of savior/messiah they anticipated?
 - b) Read Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9,10. Why did Jesus have to die?
 - c) Read 1 Peter 2:24, Romans 6:5. Why else did Jesus have to die?
 - d) How do we embrace the death of Christ?
3. 8:34-38
 - a) In order to follow Jesus, what must we do?

Pastor Ron said:

"In the day, prisoners condemned to death were marched in procession to the place of their execution. They were forced to carry the cross beam of the implement of their own torture and death. It is into this grizzly procession that Jesus calls his followers. To be an apprentice of Jesus we must take up our cross and follow him to death. If our answer to the question, "Who do you say I am?" is "You are the Messiah!" we must follow Him to death."

- b) What does it mean for you to pick up your cross and follow Christ?
 - c) What does it mean to die to self? How can we do that?
4. Who do you say Jesus is? Does who he is change who you are?

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5. Have you embraced the death of Christ? How does embracing the death of Christ change our lives?
 6. Are you pursuing your own death, death to self?

CHALLENGE

Each day intentionally pursue death to self.

NEXT STEP

When you are seeking God's direction use the prayer of indifference:

Lord, I know that I come with my own agenda, desires, ego and personal likes and dislikes. Right now I lay down my will to seek nothing more, nothing less, nothing else than your will to be revealed to me. Help me to do this very hard thing. Let me know in the moment if I begin to push my own agenda.

All wise and intelligent God, I seek your wisdom, I surrender my wisdom to you. Not my will be done, but yours.