

## **CHURCH STAFF**

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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



Order of Worship 1 May 2022 The Third Sunday of Easter

# We Gather to Worship God

Welcome Worship in Song Call to Worship Worship in Song

### We Listen to the Word

Prayer

Sermon Series: Grow On Sermon: Week 2 - "Fish Tanks

### We Come to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Consecration
The Lord's Prayer
We Eat and Drink Together
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song

## We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Doxology
Blessing and Sending







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# Grow On Week 2- "Fish Tanks" Pastor Kris Beckert

Why do you make excuses?

I. Further growth requires greater

Luke 9:23-27. Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. <sup>27</sup> Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

• v.23 "take up your cross"--

#### II. Three stories of excuses:

#1. The man on the road = "\_\_\_\_\_"

Luke 9:57-58. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." 58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

### #2. The man with the father = "

Luke 9:59-60. He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

# #3. The man with goodbyes to say =

Luke 9:61-62. Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Big Idea:	

# Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



- 1. Have you ever used an excuse to avoid responsibility or opportunity and to stay safe? What would you tell your old self now?
- 2. "Greater growth requires greater commitment." Do you agree? How have you seen this play out in your faith?
- 3. What challenges you most about Jesus' call to his followers to "deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me?" How does following Jesus involve sacrifice on our part?
- 4. In which of the three stories of excuses do you see yourself? What might you need to put aside to follow Jesus more closely and grow in relationship with him?
- 5. What excuse are you currently using to protect yourself but may be keeping you from growing? Is it time to break the tank?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org or call 717-774-6444 to set up an appointment.