**Talking about Sacrifice, Brokenness & Faith**

(Remember: start anywhere and listen. There are no rights or wrongs, no debating or monopolizing the conversation. Go with your first thoughts!)

**Read Matthew 16:24-27 together**

**Pray!** You are welcome to use the prayer below or pray on your own.

Lord, you call us pick up our cross and follow you, and you know that isn’t easy. Be with us when we are unsure, when we struggle to understand, and when we are hurting. Bring us closer to you through our conversation and time together today. Amen.

**Deep**

When this week were you grateful for something?

When this week were you not grateful for something?

Tell about a time that you:

* Cried during a movie?
* Thought something was too expensive?
* Gave something up?

**Deeper**

What is faith? Why is faith important?

What is something that people are willing to sacrifice for?

When have you seen someone else give up something to care for another person?

What do you consider to be broken in our world?

Why do you think bad things happen, even to good people?

How do you see God at work in our world?

**Deepest**

Who helped you through your worst life storm? What was helpful? What wasn’t helpful?

Life includes sorrow, hurt, disappointment, injustice, loss, pain, and grief. How do you live with these as a part of life? How can you support and help others?

How can faith keep you grounded and be central to your life, no matter what happens?

**Closing**

Think about and share how you would end this sentence about/for your discussion partner**: In tough times, I think one of your strengths might be…**

What are you leaving our conversation with—a quote, hope, thought, challenge, something to hold onto, an affirmation?

**Matthew 16:24-28**

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 ‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’