

LifeGroups

“And Follow Me”

Mark 8:31-9:1

Our church is studying the gospel of Mark each Sunday and discussing it through the week in Life Groups. The series is titled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” We believe discipleship takes place in and through community. Therefore we view small group Bible study as an essential means of spiritual growth. We hope you find these reflection questions helpful for recalling and applying what you hear from the pulpit each week. Time will not allow your group to work through all the questions in this guide. Select those that seem most relevant. Perhaps you can use the other questions in your own personal time with God.

This week's main point: *This section in Mark's gospel is the first of three sections where Jesus speaks about his death, the disciples misunderstand, and Jesus proceeds to teach them about discipleship. The big question is, now that we know who Jesus is, what does it mean to follow him?*

Share

An “entourage” is a group of attendants or associates who follow someone of importance or celebrity. The U.S. president has a large entourage of people. So do many celebrities. If you could choose to be a part of someone’s entourage for just one day, who would it be? Why?

Study

1. **Read several times Mark 8:31-9:1.**
2. *Why was it necessary for Jesus to “suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again” (see Isaiah 53; Matt. 12:40; John 2:19)?*
3. *When Peter rebukes Jesus in v.32 a couple of interesting things happen. First, Jesus turns so he sees all the disciples, not only Peter (v.33). Second, he refers to him as Satan and tells him that he only has the “things of man” in mind. Why do you think he does these two things (see John 6:15)?*
4. *The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary states that the cross was “the most painful and degrading form of capital punishment in the ancient world.” What do you think the crowd’s response was to Jesus’ words in v.34? Remember, Jesus hadn’t been crucified yet!*

5. *The words of Jesus in vv.34-38 would have been utterly preposterous and astounding to the crowds hearing his words. Read those verses again, slowly and together as a group. Discuss what your reaction would have been had you been there. In 9:1, Jesus says, “some standing here...will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.” What was Jesus referring to (see 9:2-8)?*

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See Jesus

1. *In v.32, Mark writes that Jesus spoke plainly about his death and resurrection. Why is that detail important?*

2. *Jesus knows his mission and what terrible things he will face after his arrest. What do we see about Jesus’ emotions and character as we read his words to Peter in v.33? Is he just meek and mild as he is often portrayed in our culture?*

3. *Verses 34-39 are Jesus’ call to discipleship. What does he expect from those who follow him?*

Send

1. *Have you ever misunderstood Jesus' call on your life? What did that look like? Share it with your group.*
2. *In our comfortable American lifestyle, the things of the world often take our attention away from Jesus and the mission he has given us. Share your greatest weakness in this area with the group and discuss what victory over those temptations and distractions would look like.*
3. *8:38 is a wake-up call for those of us who call ourselves Christ-followers. Matthew Henry in his commentary on this verse states, "Those that are ashamed of Christ in this world where he is despised, he will be ashamed of in that world where he is eternally adored. They shall not share with him in his glory then, that were not willing to share with him in his disgrace now." Are you willing to share in Jesus' disgrace? Discuss.*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray for elder Harvey Spears. This month he is leading our high school students through a study of apologetics.*
- ◆ *Pray for our business manager, Tanya Turner. Last month she had very delicate surgery on her leg and has been out of the office for several weeks. Pray for the pain to go away and for complete healing.*
- ◆ *Pray for our daughter church, Christ Community Church of Lake Nona, as they are without a pastor. Next week our pastors will lead an important congregational meeting at their church to discuss ideas for the future. Pray the church will experience unity and faith as they look forward.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: CrossWay Community Church*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionaries of the week: Chipper & Kristin Flaniken*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Biafada of Guinea-Bissau*