

Life Group #5

Mark 8:27-38

Note for those leading discussions- For the past several weeks we have seen the heart of Jesus toward those who are beaten down, weary, broken and lost. This week Jesus will reveal that He is the suffering servant and describe what it means to follow Him. Be prepared to spend the majority of your time talking about what it means to follow Jesus and allowing each person to share where they are at in the process.

Key objectives for the night: To see Jesus as the Christ (Messiah) who came to suffer and die in the place of mankind. To understand what he expects of his followers. To take up our cross and follow Jesus.

Intro (use your own words)

Each week we want to be together in community and get to know Jesus through the Bible. Many people have opinions about who Jesus is and why he came to earth. Instead of our opinions, we want to look at how Jesus describes himself and his purpose. Our goal is simple- we are going to read one of those passages and seek to answer 2 questions: Who is Jesus? How do I relate to Him and follow Him?

Each week we are going to give a little background to the passage, read it and break into smaller groups for discussion. It doesn't matter if you know a lot about Jesus or a little, we want everyone to be able to engage in the discussion.

This week we are going to look at a story that took place in the middle of his ministry. In this short interaction Jesus reveals who he is, what he is to do and how his disciples should respond. This interaction is between Jesus and the 12 men who were his closest followers. It was common for a Rabbi to lay out the expectations for those who choose to follow Him. As we read this we want to think about where we are at in following Jesus.

Read Mark 8:27-38

Small Group Discussion

- What is surprising or interesting in this passage?
- How is Jesus described in this passage? What do those words (Christ, Son of Man) mean in your own words?
- What did he come to do?
- What makes sense about Peter's response (32)? What does not make sense about his response?
- Summarize in your own words who Jesus is and his purpose.
- We want to spend the majority of our time looking at his call to disciples (34-38).
- In your own words- what does Jesus call his disciples to?
- How is this the same or different from your experience with Christians?
- What does it look like for us to "deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Him"?
- Why would a person respond to and follow Jesus?
- Why would someone not follow Jesus?
- Where are you at in the process of following Jesus? (we ALL are in process)
- What is the next step for you to follow Jesus?
- What can we do to help you follow Jesus?
- Pray for one another