

GATHERING INSIGHTS

SERIES: **The Gospel According to Mark**

TITLE: **The Conditions**

BIG IDEA: The conditions for following Jesus are that we die to ourselves and pick up our cross daily as evidence that we are truly his disciples.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Read **Mark 8:34**

Why do you think Jesus says gives the disciples these “conditions” in order to follow him? Why do we often see these conditions as optional rather commands?

How does the concept of dying to self-challenge the cultural narrative that self-care, self-fulfillment, and personal happiness should be our primary pursuits?

What specific crosses are you being called to pick up in this season of your life, and what would it look like to carry them without turning back to your old ways?

Read **1 Corinthians 6:19-20/ Galatians 2:20**

How does the statement that we were bought with a price and are not our own fundamentally change the way we view our time, resources, relationships, and future plans?

What does it mean practically to be crucified with Christ so that it is no longer you who lives but Christ who lives in you?

Read **Mark 8:35-38**

How do you save your life by losing it? What do you gain now if you sacrifice your life now?

What are ways that we might be “ashamed” of Jesus? What are the consequences if we deny Christ while we dwell here on Earth?

Why do you think Jesus decided to share with the disciples his path to the cross at Caesarea Philippi instead of a holy place like Jerusalem?

Why do you think so many people twist the conditions of following Jesus to make them more “manageable or easy?” How does your biblical view of Jesus and the “American Christian” view of Jesus differ?

How does a church family help us stay centered on the conditions Jesus gives us in Mark 8:34? How can they hold us accountable when we stray?

What benefits do we have when we live out these conditions (dying to ourselves and picking up our cross) in a healthy Gospel Community?

How has our “American, middle class Jesus” we have created, harmed our ability share the Gospel with others?

When we pick up our cross and follow Jesus, how does this benefit those who may not be believers or give us a better opportunity to serve the hurting and broken in our community?

GROWING IN CHRIST

LIVING AS A FAMILY

SHARING THE GOSPEL