

Study Guide

Small Group Questions *January 18 & 19, 2020*

Mark 8:31 is a turning point in the Second Gospel. In the first eight chapters, Mark shows us who Jesus is. In the next eight chapters, he shows us what Jesus came to do. Here the Lord warns his disciples about his impending crucifixion.

1. In verse 29 Peter confessed Jesus as the Messiah. How does Jesus respond in Matthew 16:17-19 (not recorded in Mark)? Speculate on how these words would have impacted Peter.

2. Why do you think Peter responds as he does in Mark 8:32 to Jesus' prediction? How does Jesus respond to him (verse 33)? What do these two different responses teach us about the nature of discipleship.

3. *Read verses 34-38.* What does this tell us about the nature of discipleship? How does your faith compare?

4. What does it mean to be ashamed of Jesus and his words (verse 34)? Are there any situations in your life where you are cautious about publicizing your relationship with Christ? If so, what are you going to do about it?

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5. *Read Mark 9:2-8.* What is happening here? What is the significance of Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah?

6. Why did the disciples have such a hard time understanding and accepting the death and resurrection of Christ? How does that serve as a proof for the historicity of the resurrection?

In the prayer time, spend some time assessing your faith. What has it cost you?