

Life Group Guide – Week Starting 26th April 2026

Key Scriptures: Mark 8:27-38, 9:1

This week's BIG IDEA: These verses at the midway point of Mark's Gospel are a turning point in the disciple's understanding of Jesus' identity and the cost of discipleship is made clear for them and for us. Jesus still asks us today: Who do *you* say I am? Our response to this question is the most important answer we'll ever give and will shape the rest of our lives.

Worship: We all need reminding of the cost of the cross and our life's greatest joy and priority is following Jesus. Meditate on this now as we worship: https://youtu.be/l_wC29WxfEY?si=LkEr5Z_PS51SunbE (All I Once Held Dear)

Read: Mark 8:27-28

- Why do you think many people failed to understand Jesus was God's Son, even when they had witnessed His miracles?
- The many world religions accept Jesus as a 'prophet' and many secular theories accept He was 'just a good man' - why are both beliefs an inadequate understanding of who Jesus is?
- How can we help non-believers to a greater understanding of who Jesus is?

Read: Mark 8:29-31, Daniel 7:13-14, Isaiah 53:10-12

- Why do you think it took so long for the disciples to make the vital discovery of who Jesus was? What kind of Messiah did they want Jesus to be?
- Although Jesus accepts Peter's confession that He is 'Messiah' - which means 'Anointed One' - Jesus chooses to call Himself by His seemingly preferred title: Son of Man - why is this?
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to suffer and die? Why was this something only He could do as the Son of Man?

Read: Mark 8:32-37, Philippians 3:7-11

- Why did Jesus speak so sternly to Peter? (Leaders' note: most scholars believe that in v 29 & 32, Peter spoke on behalf of all the disciples.)
- In verse 29 Peter gets it wonderfully right, in verse 32, he gets it spectacularly wrong! What can we all learn from this?
- We would all like to follow Jesus at no cost to ourselves, why is that not possible? Does Jesus ask too much of us?
- What does it mean in practice to deny ourselves and take up our cross? Spend some time sharing about what you may need to let go of in order to carry your cross.
- Where might you need to re-invest your life and your time in living for Jesus, His Gospel and His Kingdom?

Read: Mark 8:38-9:1, 1 Peter 3:15, Colossians 3:17

- Think of a time when you wanted to hide the fact that you're a Christian - and a couple of current situations where you choose not to air your faith. What made/makes you want to keep quiet?
- Peter went onto deny Jesus three times, but Jesus forgave him and Peter went on to help found the Church. We have a truly gracious and patient Saviour! Break into small groups and share who you believe Jesus is and what He means to you. Then spend time praying for opportunities to share this with the people in your life who don't yet know Jesus.