



This guide is an invitation to follow Jesus with greater purpose and hope. It will help you to explore the scriptures and challenge you to live out your faith. Each week we'd love for you to think about how you relate: **Up** (with God), **In** (with church) and **Out** (with neighbors).

### Weekly Questions:

- How is God getting my attention? For help, think about these areas:
- How are you living up with God?
- How are you living in community with other followers of Jesus?
- How are you living out on mission with your neighbors?
- What are you going to do about it?

### The Messiah

#### Read Mark 8:27-9:1

- Let's take a moment to think about or discuss the question Jesus asks on the road to Caesarea Philippi, "Who do you say Jesus is?"
- In Genesis 1-3 we read that humans are created in God's image with the role of being stewards or caretakers of the rest of creation and each other. Adam and Eve then take and eat from the single tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that God says they're not to eat from. This was at the suggestion of the serpent. They cease being humans (caretakers) when they reach for the forbidden fruit in order to become like God (the owner).
  - Generally, what does it mean to be an owner of something? A caretaker?
  - Read Mark 8:31-33 again. Describe what Jesus says the Messiah will experience. Why does Peter pull him aside and begin to rebuke him?
  - Can you make any connections between Peter's rebuke of Jesus and the garden story in Genesis 1-3? Name the connections or brainstorm some possibilities with each other.
  - Why does Jesus say, "Get behind me Satan" to Peter? Can you name some similarities between the serpent's actions and Peter's?
- Read Mark 8:34-35 again. Jesus teaches that a person who wants to follow him must
  - 1) Let Jesus lead (submit)
  - 2) Embrace suffering (suffer)
  - 3) Sacrifice oneself (self-sacrifice)
- What is one way you can submit to God this week that would help you mature in your imitation of Jesus?
- What is one way you're suffering? What makes it difficult to remain faithful because of this? Where or who do you draw strength from? How so?
- What is something in your own life that you can sacrifice this week so that new life can flourish?