

DISCIPLESHIP AS THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Mark 8:27–9:29

Memorize God's Word for the week: Mark 8:38.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 8:27-30—A QUESTION OF ETERNAL DESTINY

1. What were some of the speculations about Jesus' identity?
2. According to Matthew 16:13-17, what is Peter's answer and the source of his insight?
3. How would *you* answer Jesus' question (8:29)?
4. How have you come to this conclusion?
5. Explain the eternal significance of this question. (See also John 3:16-17; Romans 10:9.)

DAY 2: MARK 8:31–9:1—STATEMENT OF SEEMING CONTRADICTION

6. When Jesus tells Peter about His approaching rejection, death, and resurrection, what does Peter's reaction (8:32) reveal about his understanding of Jesus' identity and mission?
7. Do you find Jesus' rebuke of Peter (8:33) harsh? Confusing? Warranted? Explain.
8. According to Jesus, what is involved in Christian discipleship?
9. How do Jesus' views contradict our society's values?
10. What does Peter later explain to his own disciples on the subject of suffering?
 - a) 1 Peter 2:20-21
 - b) 1 Peter 4:15-16

DAY 3: MARK 9:2-13—AN EXPERIENCE ON THE MOUNTAINTOP

11. With the help of a dictionary, jot down the definition for and synonyms of *transfiguration*.
12. What was God's message to the three disciples (Mark 9:7)?
13. God still communicates that same truth to us. How can focusing our inner ears and eyes on Jesus result in a personal transformation? (See Romans 8:28-29; 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18.)
14. Contrast the concerns of Jesus and the three men following the event.

DAY 4: MARK 9:14-29—CRISIS AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN

15. Describe the scene at the foot of the mountain.
16. How does the father's faith differ from that of the disciples?
17. Reread 9:23-24. Has there been a time when your faith seemed small compared to a great challenge you were facing? What did God do to increase your faith?
18. Is there a situation in your life right now where you need more faith? Consider sharing this with a friend so he or she can pray with you about it this week.

DAY 5: MARK 8:27-9:29—DISCIPLESHIP: THE WAY OF FAITH

19. Why is Jesus frustrated (9:19) with the disciples? (See also Matthew 17:17-20.)
20. Note the response of the boy's father as well as Jesus' words to His disciples. What attitudes or actions can transform unbelief into progressive steps of faith?

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. In the middle of a crisis, this father's response to Jesus is completely candid: "*I believe; help my unbelief!*" This is a prayer that God is able and ready to answer. Talk with Jesus about your need to believe Him for a difficult situation in your life right now. Then allow the Holy Spirit to minister to your deepest needs.