

groups

Study Group: Leader Guide
Mark 8:27-38 – Cameron Free
September 9th-15th

CHECK-IN

An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.

STUDY

Main Topics: God's Plan, Denying Oneself, Processes

Read Mark 8:27-38

- What are common misconceptions people have about Jesus?
 - What passages are there in Scripture that can help address and change those misconceptions?
- Why would Jesus warn His disciples not to tell anyone that He is the Christ? (see Leader Notes)
- What's the difference between saying "I believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead" and "I believe Jesus Christ is Lord over my life because He rose from the dead"? (see Leader Notes)
- How would you respond to somebody who asks you, "Why did Jesus have to die?"
- Why did Jesus respond so harshly to Peter?
 - What does that say about the importance of the Cross?
- What does it mean for Christians to deny themselves?
- How do Jesus' words in verses 34-38 speak directly against what many call "the American Dream"?

APPLY

- In our day, what does it look like for believers to act like Peter and rebuke Jesus?
- How are we called to respond when God's plan doesn't seem to make sense to us?
 - How have you seen God's faithfulness demonstrated despite experiencing a plan that didn't make sense to you?
- Are there any processes that God is currently letting you go through that you need to trust Him with?
- Why do we oftentimes think that following Jesus requires only a few, minor adjustments in our daily lives?
- If Jesus calls believers to deny themselves, then why do we so often see an attitude that seems to be based on indulging oneself?
- Are there any areas in your life where you are exalting yourself instead of denying yourself?

CLOSE

Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passage? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act this week?

Leader Notes:

- Why would Jesus warn his disciples not to tell anyone that He is the Christ?
 - Jesus' messianic mission cannot be understood apart from the Cross, which the disciples did not understand yet. For them to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah at this point would further the misunderstanding that the Messiah was to be a political-military leader. So Jesus told them not to tell anyone because they didn't truly understand His mission or His person yet.
- What's the difference between saying "I believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead" and "I believe Jesus Christ is Lord over my life because He rose from the dead"?
 - There is a huge difference between just believing that Jesus rose from the dead and making Him Lord over one's life. One can believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He came to take away the sins of the world, and that He rose from the dead in triumph but still lack a saving relationship with God. Why? Because in order to be saved from sin, one must make Jesus *Lord*. Not just believe He is who He says He is. Even the demons believe that (James 2:19). If one does not make Jesus Lord over their life by submitting to His command and authority, then one is not living out Romans 10:9. One may believe that "God raised him from the dead", but without submission one is not truly confessing that "Jesus is Lord".
 - For further explanation, see John Piper's sermon – Right With God, Right With Man (minute 34 to minute 40):
<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/right-with-god-right-with-man>

Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 1 of 3 categories: Study, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at bocacommunity.org/groups