

Right in Front of You: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of June 7th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week 17: Mark 8:22-33

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"In verse 29, Jesus stressed "you" when He asked this question. He wanted to know whom the disciples, in contrast to the multitudes, believed He was. Peter spoke for the disciples. The other disciples evidently agreed with his statement and made no objection. This is the first time in Mark that Peter acted as spokesman for the Twelve. Yet from this time on, Peter was the prominent representative of the other disciples. Peter's name appears twice in Mark before and 16 times after this incident. It occurs five times before this incident in Matthew and 18 times after, four times in Luke before and 16 times after, and four times in John before and 29 times after."

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- In Mark 8:27-29 we see Jesus shifts the conversation from what *other people* think about Him to what the disciples personally believe. What is the difference between knowing facts about Jesus and truly following Him? If Jesus asked you, "Who do you say I am?" how would your daily life answer that question?
- In the passage we see that Peter wanted a Messiah who would bring victory and success, not suffering and a cross. When Jesus revealed God's plan, Peter pushed back because it wasn't what he expected. When have you found it difficult to trust God's plan because it wasn't what you wanted? What does Peter's response teach us about our own expectations?
- Jesus in Mark 8:33 reminds Peter that disciples are called to follow, not lead. Where are you most tempted to take control instead of trusting Jesus? What would it look like to follow His lead in that area this week?