

Right in Front of You: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of June 14th

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 18: Mark 8:34-38

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.

"Jesus used the word "life" (Gr. psyche) in two ways in this verse. The translation of this Greek word as "soul" here has caused some people to conclude that Jesus was only warning about the loss of salvation. He was not. In its first occurrence in each clause, "life" refers to one's physical life. In the second part of each clause "it" means the essential person that continues to exist beyond the grave. Likewise "lose" has two meanings. In the first clause it means the loss of reward for believers or the loss of salvation for unbelievers. In the second clause it means loss of physical life. Jesus meant that if a person wants to retain control of his or her life now, he or she will suffer the loss of something more valuable in the future. Conversely if a person will relinquish control of his or her life to follow God's will faithfully, he or she will gain something of greater ultimate worth." – Constable

Notes

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.

- Jesus says, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."* What do you think Jesus means by denying yourself? How is that different from simply giving something up or practicing self-discipline?
- In Mark 8:35-37, Jesus challenges the crowd's assumptions by saying that the way to find life is actually to lose it for His sake. What are some things people commonly chase for meaning, success, or fulfillment? Have you ever discovered that something you thought would satisfy you ultimately didn't?
- Jesus calls His followers to live for His approval rather than the approval of the crowd. Whose opinion or approval most influences your decisions? How would your life look different if Jesus' voice carried the most weight in that area?