

## **God's Ways are Not Our Ways**

### **Discussion Questions for Mark 8:31-33**

#### **Open It**

1. In what ways has your life been different from what you expected?
2. How do unrealistic expectations block people from following Christ?

#### **EXPLORE**

1. Who referred to Himself as the "Son of Man"? (8:31)
2. What did Jesus teach the disciples? (8:31)
3. How did Jesus speak about what would happen to Him? (8:32)
4. Why did Peter rebuke Jesus? (8:32)
5. How was what Jesus predicted different from what Peter expected? (8:32)
6. What surprised Peter? (8:32)
7. Who rebuked whom? Why? (8:32–33)
8. What did Jesus say to Peter in response to his rebuke? (8:33)
9. Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? (8:33)
10. Why did Jesus speak harshly with Peter? (8:33)
11. In what way did Peter have in mind the "things of man" as opposed to the "things of God"? (8:33)
12. What was wrong with Peter's thinking? (8:33)
13. What did Jesus do after rebuking Peter? (8:34)
14. What did Jesus want His disciples to do? (8:34–35)
15. Why did Jesus say, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"? (8:34–38)
16. How did Jesus refer to the people to whom He was speaking? (8:38)
17. How will Jesus come back to earth? (8:38)
18. What promise was given to Jesus' audience? (9:1)

#### **Get It**

1. When have you ever doubted the words of Jesus?
2. In what ways has Christ rebuked you in the past?

3. Why does Christ ask us to “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow” Him?
4. What does it mean to deny yourself?
5. What does it mean to take up your cross?
6. What does it mean to follow Christ?
7. In what way can a person both save his life and lose it at the same time?
8. What did Jesus mean when He said, “Some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power”? (9:1)
9. How do you usually respond to the Lord’s correction or discipline in your life?
10. How can we make sure we “have in mind the things of God”?
11. What do you think Christ wants you to give up for the sake of the gospel?
12. What does it mean to be ashamed of Christ?
13. In what ways does Satan tempt us to do the opposite of what Christ wants for us?

**Apply It**

1. What attitude or practice do you need to change in obedience to Christ?
2. What specific steps can you take to listen closely to Christ this week?