



## Small Group Participant Guide

### Mark 8:27-38 | What Jesus Said About...You

**Key Verse:** "And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (Luke 8:34)"

**Objectives:** Through your time exploring this passage, you will:

**Discuss** the identity of Jesus and the implications of relating to Him as the Christ.

**Explore** the ways people deny the identity and authority of Jesus.

**Apply** the personal responsibilities and opportunities to follow Jesus, understanding the costs and consequences.

#### Who is Jesus to you? (Luke 8:27-30)

Jesus asks the disciples what other people are saying about him; namely, who others think he is. What are their responses, and what is significant about those responses?

What stands out to you about verse 29?

Who do you say that Jesus is? What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ, as Peter declared?

What do you think are some of mistaken thoughts that people today have about Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus forbade the disciples from telling others that He was the Christ?

#### Problems with Authority Figures (Mark 8:31-33)

Upon the disciples' understanding of Jesus as the Christ, verse 31 reveals the implications of His identity. What stands out to you in this verse?

What do you make of Peter's attempted rebuke of Jesus?

How do we sometimes/often settle for a less-than-who-He-truly-is appreciation of Jesus?

How did Jesus respond to Peter, and how does He similarly respond to our contemporary mistaken approaches to Jesus?

### **The Cost & Consequences (Luke 8:34-38)**

Jesus now returns His teaching to the crowd, and clearly teaches that if you are going to come after Jesus, you must take up your cross and follow Him. What does that mean to you?

What does "losing your life" look like to you?

What does verse 37 indicate about what God values compared to what people value? What is the implication of this difference?

What does verse 38 reveal about the role of Jesus as the Christ in the matters of your life, from an eternal perspective?

What does this unashamed life look like for you this week? What adjustments do you need to make? Where is Jesus leading you that you have been unwilling to go?

What is one "take-away" for you from this chapter?