

Week5: Mark 8:2238

CONTEXT

The Big Picture: Spend a few minutes reviewing the big picture of this gospel book from Week One. Who wrote this book? When might it have been written? Who was it written to? Where are the main events located? Where are we in the large story of Scripture?

A quick look back: Spend a few minutes reviewing what you have read so far in this study. What have been some of the main points/stories/ themes/or learnings from the past week or weeks.

Today's passage : As a leader, take a look at where today's passage is located in the book of Mark. Is there anything happening before this passage that is important? Anything that comes right after? Share with your group any observations that might be helpful for them to understand what is happening in this passage. picking ONE of the following ways to help your group engage with this passage.

Option A. Guided Bible Study Questions

1: Take one question at a time; answer it and move on; be sure everyone gets a chance to speak/no one dominates)

- 1) What event takes place just before Peter's confession? Why do you think these two stories are placed next to each other?
- 2) How would you describe the healing of the blind man?
- 3) How good is a partial understanding of Jesus?
- 4) According to Jesus, why does a follower of Jesus have to 'deny themselves' and 'lose their life'?

Option B. Notice/Wonder: Ask everyone to read the passage again quietly on their own. As they read, ask them to make a list like the one below. Remember that what people notice or wonder can just be small, simple things.

What do I NOTICE about this text?

What do I WONDER about?

Once everyone has had the chance to make their list, come together as a group and share your

Option D. Creative Engagement : Have participants creatively engage the text through one of the ways below. You may need paper, pens, crayons, and colored pencils.

- Give everyone paper and drawing/coloring supplies. Have everyone to read the passage again on their own. Invite everyone to spend some time illustrating the passage in whatever way they want- concrete, abstract, colors, images, words. When everyone has completed their art, come together and spend time sharing with each other what you drew and why.

- Write a haiku about the passage (a three-line poem w/ 17 syllables divided up into 5/7/5 per line).

Example:

Unconditional,
God's love endures though mine fails,
Everlasting love.
By Roger W. Hancock W

APPLICATION