

# COMMUNITY GROUPS: *DISCUSSION GUIDE*

SERMON DATE: April 23, 2017; SERMON TITLE: #challengethenorm - "Count the Cost"; SERMON TEXT: Mark 8:31-9:1

PREACHER: Rev. Bernard Doan

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## PREPARE

Take a few minutes to read the main passage used in the sermon from Sunday. Then answer the following questions, looking up Scripture verses where noted. Feel free to refer to other verses you may know that address the topic being considered.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

There's a saying: *"Change happens when the pain of staying the same is greater than the pain of change."* Take a few moments and share about a moment in your life when you felt staying the same was just too painful that you had to make a change.

## DISCOVERING TRUTH

As you listened to and read **MARK 8:31-9:1** once again, what are some thoughts, feelings, or questions that come to mind? What was encouraging? What was convicting?

From this passage, what was something you learned about Jesus that you might have known, but forgotten? What was something you learned about Jesus that was new? What questions to have about Jesus from this passage?

How does **MARK 10:45** point us in the right direction, when it comes to understanding what it means to "deny yourself and pick up your cross and follow me"?

What's significant about how Peter responded to Jesus that might shed some light on how we have a tendency to respond? How are you affected by seeing Jesus' response to Peter's rebuke?

In the message, in relation to "counting the cost," what kinds of shifts in attitude must happen? What kinds of perspectives on life must change?

## LIVING IT OUT

In the message Pastor B delivered this weekend, he said, "All that matter is this: (verse 34) 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" As such, there were two application points:

1. **DENY YOURSELF AND TAKE UP YOUR CROSS:** They're inseparable concepts. Further, this is a *daily* practice. In what areas is God calling you to "deny yourself and take up your cross"? How can you create a daily rhythm? How can you invite others to help keep you accountable? How can a Jesus-centered "Way of Life" help you in all this?

2) **FOLLOW ME:** How are you following Jesus today? In what ways might be ashamed of Jesus? Ashamed of his Word? In what ways can you be bold for Jesus? Bold in sharing his Word?

**EXTRA CREDIT:** If you need to confess and repent of something, don't be afraid to ask someone to pray with you, right now!

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**Key Concepts:** 1) Referring to himself as the "Son of Man" would've resonated with his audience as meaning Jesus was the "Messiah," but that he would also suffer and die. 2) Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death was recorded three times in Mark: 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34. 3) Mark 10:45 is the central theme of the Gospel of Mark -- the "Suffering Servant." 4) See **Luke 9:23** for how this "counting the cost" is a daily rhythm.

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