

Question MARK

Session 5 Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?
week starting March 21, 2021

Mark chapter 8 begins the second act of the book focusing on what it actually means for Jesus to be the Messiah. In this section, Jesus tells the disciples three times that he must suffer and die but the disciples don't seem to understand. Their view of what it means to be the Messiah is far different than the picture of Jesus as Isaiah's "Suffering Servant" (Isaiah 53).

GETTING STARTED

- Describe a time when a situation turned out very different from what you expected.
- Share reports on the exercise from last week. How did it go as you practiced becoming more like Jesus?

DISCUSSION

1. Read Mark 8:34–9:1. How does Jesus' framing of his role of Messiah in verses 34–38 contrast with Peter's expectation of him in verses 32–33?
2. What expectations do we put on Jesus' "job" in our world today?
3. Despite Jesus' explanation of His role as the suffering servant, the disciples miss the point in Mark 9:30–36 and 10:32–35. In what ways have you seen Christians argue about power today? Why were the disciples concerned about which of them was the greatest?
4. How does Jesus respond? What do you think He would say to us today as we jostle for position, notoriety, and wealth?
5. In Mark 9:2–13, Jesus appears with the prophets Elijah and Moses. Once again, all three persons of the trinity appear (Father as a voice, Holy Spirit as a cloud). What was Peter's reaction to the situation? How are we like Peter when amazing things happen in our spiritual lives? Was Peter's response inappropriate?
6. Throughout all of the above passages Jesus' message is clear regarding His purpose; what was it? How does that purpose continue to be relevant in our lives today? How do you see yourself as part of that purpose?

LIVE IT OUT

As a group: Become more like Jesus by planning to serve someone/others in the next few weeks. Email stories@sov.church to let us know what your group did. Include a photo if you can.

Personally: Spend a few minutes daily to practice the discipline of personal confession. Write a personal confession of sin each day and practice handing it over to Jesus. Thank Him for fulfilling His purpose of freeing you from that sin. Ask Him how you might continue to live out His purpose in your day and throughout the week.

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
Mark 8:34b

PRAY

Jesus, Thank you for coming to earth to live as our example and die in our place. Forgive us for trying to set an agenda for You. Help align our hearts with Your plans for our world. Amen.