



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: The Gospel According to Peter
Text for the Week: Mark 8:27-38
Message for the Week: The Four Words of Gospel
Theme for the Week: Who Are You Going to Follow?

Week 1

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Who would your best friend say you are?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Mark 8:27-38](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What is your life being built upon?

What is the difference between a confession and a commitment? When on your faith journey did you make the transition from a confession of who Jesus is to a commitment to follow Jesus?

Who do you say that Jesus is?

How has following Jesus turned your life upside down?

Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to tell anyone who he was?

What or where are the Caesarea Philippi's (places where sin is prevalent) of our day? What are we called to do considering these places?

"Try It!"

In our text for this week, Jesus took his disciples to an uncomfortable place, Caesarea Philippi, to teach them about what it means to be one of his disciples. This week, do something as a disciple/follower of Jesus that makes you a bit uncomfortable. Some possible examples might be striking up a conversation with someone you don't know in the check-out line or in the hallway at school, donating money to an organization you haven't given to before, and/or bringing a baked good to a neighbor.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

Jesus, while walking on the roads around Caesarea Philippi with your disciples you asked them, "Who do people say I am?" Today, you ask each one of us the same question... "Who do you say that I am?" Help us, like Peter did, to confess that "You are the Messiah!" AMEN.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Praying for Neighbors

This Sunday is the first Sunday in the season of Lent. During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to give something up to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Each day during the month of March, take time during your day from doing something else to pray for one of your neighbors. You could pray for a different neighbor each day of the week or for the same neighbor every day.

Mark 8:27-38 New International Version

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Mark 8:27-38 New Living Translation

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

²⁸ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets."

²⁹ Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."^[a]

³⁰ But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man^[b] must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. ³² As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.^[c] ³³ Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

³⁴ Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. ³⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?^[d] ³⁷ Is anything worth more than your soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."