The Ministry of Jesus According to Mark

Lesson 5: Who is He to You?

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/346/lesson/serving-with-compassion.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/349/lesson/getting-them-to-jesus.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/351/lesson/moved-by-the-power.php) [4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/353/lesson/looking-on-the-inside.php) **5**[6](http://www.teensundayschool.com/356/lesson/who-is-the-greatest.php) [7](http://www.teensundayschool.com/359/lesson/giving-it-all.php) [8](http://www.teensundayschool.com/360/lesson/the-greatest-commandment.php) [9](http://www.teensundayschool.com/361/lesson/the-betrayal-of-jesus.php) [10](http://www.teensundayschool.com/362/lesson/the-story-ends-with-you.php)

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To educate students on the life and ministry of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark  
2. To challenge students with what it means to follow Jesus  
3. To inspire students to deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Jesus

Topics

Choices, Comfort, Commitment, Cross, Disciple, Following Jesus, Fruitfulness, Integrity, Perseverance

Scripture Memorization

Mark 8:34

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (10 minutes)

Print pictures of famous people: some really famous and some marginally famous (i.e. local politicians, athletes…etc.). Ask students to identify each celebrity. Or, copy and paste pictures onto individual pieces of paper and pass them out to your group. Give them a minute or two to name each individual. See who can get the most right. This will set up the question for today, which is, “Who do you say that I am?”

GETTING STARTED (10 minutes)

Have all students write down in their workbooks why they have chosen to follow Christ. Then, have a few of the students read aloud what they wrote down.

**General Discussion:**  
• Of the reasons we've heard for following Christ, are there any commonalities?   
• At this point in our study, what do you think motivates the disciples to follow Jesus?

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

**Read Mark 8:22-26**

**Discussion Questions:**1. Jesus’ miracle happened in two steps. What were they? *(Jesus puts His hands on the man's eyes two times, once spitting on His hands first.)*2. Why do you think it took two steps for the miracle to take place?   
3. Why do you suppose Jesus told the man not to go into the village?  
  
  
**Read Mark 8:27-33**

**Discussion Questions:**1. Why would Jesus ask the disciples who people said He was? *(To help His follwers realize that He is the Son of God.)*2. Peter, in true form, jumps out here with an answer. What is it? *(“You are the Messiah”)*3. Do you feel that Peter’s answer was what Jesus was looking for? Why or why not?   
4. For the first time, Jesus talks about the suffering He must go through. Why do you think He chooses to do that now?  
5. Why does Jesus get upset with Peter? *(Because Peter tries to rebuke Him.)*6. Jesus mentions “the things of God” and “the things of men.”  What are some of the “things of men” Jesus might be talking about? *(Meeting temporal needs, establishing earthly kingdoms, etc.)*  
 **Read Mark 8:34-38**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What is the main point in this passage? *(Discipleship requires sacrifice)*2. Who does Jesus address here? *(The crowd)*3. Verse 36 poses a question. What do you think the answer to that question is? *(There's no good)*4. Verse 37 also poses a question. What do you think the answer to it is? *(Nothing)*5. What do you think is the point of Jesus challenging and asking questions like this?

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

You may not know this, but the passage we just read begins a new section of Mark’s gospel. Up to this point, the disciples have been somewhat clueless as to what Jesus is doing and who He is (i.e., feeding of 5,000, then feeding of 4,000, Parable of the Sower, etc.). The second half of Mark’s gospel deals a lot with enlightening the disciples.

The story of the blind man is likely put into place here to fit in with what Jesus was teaching the disciples in the next section. He was not only curing physical blindness, but also the spiritual blindness of the disciples.

This passage is a turning point for the disciples. From here on out, Jesus focuses on the cost He will pay as Savior to the world. The disciples each begin to realize that their idea for a Messiah is not the same as God's plan.

In order to see clearly, we need to deny ourselves and change our ideas of what God should do for us, take up our cross, be willing to accept the consequences that come along with being a Christian, and follow Him and His Will for us.

**General Discussion:**  
• In your daily life, how does denying yourself and following Christ work? What does that look like?  
• Who does it mean is in charge—you or Jesus? *(Jesus)*• Why do you think so few Christians really embrace this lifestyle?

Consider how this may influence career choices, extracurricular activities, relationships, and daily habits. Fortunately, God wants us to turn over to Him not only the parts of our lives that are what we want, but also those parts that cause us frustration, worry, and concern. God wants it all -- our joys, our hurts, and our pain. And He promises to make something beautiful out of us in the process. The life of a disciple is demanding, but it is also deeply fulfilling. Consider your own reasons for being a Christian.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

Pray that students embrace the path of discipleship that Jesus blazed—self-sacrifice