

# Bible Study Questions

## ***The One We Follow – Mark 8:31-9:1***

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### **Focus**

Jesus the Christ must suffer and die, and so too must all those who follow Him in this fallen world.

### **Read**

[Mark 8:31-9:1](#)

### **Listen**

CCNYC teaching on Mark 7 which can be found on our [website](#)

*As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.*

### **Some Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Review verses 27-33. What do you learn in those verses about who Jesus is and what He came to do?
2. What might be the significance of Jesus not just speaking to the disciples but also calling the crowd to Himself in verse 34?
3. Given what Jesus said back in verse 31, what is He calling followers of His to do in verse 34?
4. What did the cross mean in the first century and how is that different from what it often means to people today?
5. 8:35-38 provide four reasons (indicated by the word “for”) why we should obey the call of verse 34, even though it means death. Examine those four reasons and discuss their meaning.
6. What do you think Jesus is referring to in 9:1? Do you agree with the interpretation given in Sunday’s sermon? How might it serve as a wonderful promise to the disciples and to us today?

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### **Closing Reflection and Application**

7. How is Jesus' call to discipleship 'radical'? How have we made the normal Christian life less radical than what the Bible calls for?
8. How does the world entice you to live a self-centered life of self-gratification and self-preservation?
9. What are some examples of what it has looked like for you in your life to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?
10. Discuss Dietrich Bonhoeffer's famous statement: "In fact every command of Jesus is a call to die."
11. What are some examples of how following Jesus in this fallen world makes life harder?
12. How would you know if you were ashamed of Jesus? Conversely, how would you know if you truly cherished Him and were proud to be identified with Him?
13. Which of the four reasons that Jesus gives for following Him even unto death do you find most compelling at the moment?
14. How faithfully would you say you're following Jesus right now? How do you know?
15. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. How does this reading help us more fully understand what Jesus is calling for and promising in Mark 8? And how is it a necessary word of encouragement to us today?