

# Southwest Life Groups

*A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform*

**Focus:** To explore ways in which Jesus taught the apostles and to discuss the ways we are teaching and learning to become more like Christ.

**Text:** Mark 8:31-9:13

**Introduction:** Some people learn by hearing. Some people learn by doing. Still others learn by studying. In the church we have our opinions on which of these is best. Some think we should be studying more. Others believe we should have more experiences to help us learn ‘hands on’ what studying may not convey. Begin tonight by having that discussion...

- What is your preferred way to “be taught” in terms of becoming more like Jesus?
- Which way is the ‘right’ way or is there?

## **Dig:**

- What did the Jews believe about what kind of Kingdom the Messiah would bring to earth?

Through much of Jesus’ ministry the apostles never understood what the Kingdom was really about.. In Mark chapter 8 Jesus begins to teach them. Read 8:31-37

- Why was Peter so angry? (What Jesus spoke of in vs 31 completely contradicted what Peter, as a Jew, expected of the Messiah. Peter’s understanding of what the Messiah would be like did not include him (the Christ) being rejected, enduring death on a cross, suffering.)
- Why did Jesus respond so sternly?
- What kind of teaching was going on here? (vs 32. he spoke plainly about this)
- Did the apostles understand at this point?
- Even when Jesus spoke plainly they didn’t...why?

Read 9:2-13

- What is this story about and why was it placed here?
- Why did Jesus take these men with him up the mountain?
- Why did they need this experience so badly?

## **Reflect:**

- Is any one way of teaching the right way?
- What could happen if we lean exclusively on one way or the other?
- How will the world come to know Christ if all we do is study...or if all we do is seek religious experiences?

Our lives are the gospel. I don't study to study...I study to transform. I don't seek experiences for an emotional high. I seek them because I transform there.

Ultimately, my life is the gospel...We want to create the same environment that Jesus created for his disciples. We want to study...we want to offer experiences that draw us close to God...and we want live this out in front of others!

- What kind of teaching atmosphere is being created in our group? At your job? In your family?