



B Group Study Guide

Week of March 3, 2013

“Who is Jesus” Series

Message – “Jesus is About Discipleship”

Primary Scripture: Mark 8: 21-38

Additional Scripture & Reading

1 Peter 1: 6-7
Mark 10: 28-31
“King’s Cross” by Tim Keller – Chapter 9

Mark 7: 8: 20

Here are some ideas, themes and questions for this study to use at your discretion -

Why do you go to church?

Often it is for relationships, or for your family’s relationships.

However, many of us go to church to “grow in Christ” - to grow in our Christian walk. How does that happen?

At Bellwether, we offer resources for this: RAISE, B Groups, missions, and teaching.

Yet, often, God grows us more internally, by things only we experience inside our hearts and our lives.

This teaching is about such things: that Jesus is About Discipleship and He grows us through patience, suffering, and denial.

1) Patience – Mark 8: 21-26

This is an odd passage – Jesus spits on the blind man, it “doesn’t take,” and then tells him to not tell anyone.

This passage is a lesson in patience for us all. Sometimes God’s work on you takes time. It’s not immediate. Salvation is immediate. Sanctification is not.

Also, there are times we should not tell what God is doing in our lives. Why? Maybe God is doing something for us first. Maybe we need to dwell on it before sharing it. Maybe the truth we are sharing needs to be the truth we are experiencing.

Discipleship entails patience.

2) Suffering – Mark 8: 27 – 33 & 1 Peter 1: 6-7

This is difficult yet true. Discipleship happens through our suffering. Jesus is clear here – He will suffer. When Peter rebukes Him, Jesus calls him Satan.

We want health wealth. Often our Christian life is about “have faith and avoid suffering all we can.” It doesn’t work that way. We will have suffering – from what life brings us, and when we stand firm in Christ.

Yet Peter learns from Jesus, and has a new view on suffering, which he writes to churches in 1 Peter 1: 6-7. “That our suffering will result in praise and joy.” That suffering purifies us, as fire purifies gold and silver. He wrote this to churches experiencing tremendous suffering in Rome.

When you suffer, what and who do people see? Do they see Jesus?



B Group Study Guide

3) Denial – Mark 8: 34-8

Jesus says, “deny yourself, and take up your cross and follow Me.” Deny that which keeps you from following Jesus.

We need to ask – “what is our functional Savior?” Who are we really following?

How to know who we are really following – ask ourselves: what motivates us? What gives us significance? How do you spend your free time? What are your “but’s?” (As in – I love you Jesus, but.....)

When we look at discipleship like this – it often looks too hard. It’s too difficult – to have patience, to endure suffering, and to deny ourselves.

Then read Mark 10: 28-31. Jesus tells us “we will receive that much more – in this age, and in the age to come.”