

Take Up Your Cross for Jesus



MEMORY VERSE: “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow Me.”
Mark 8:34

DAY 1

MARK 8:27-33 — Who Is Jesus

1. Who did people say Jesus was? Who did Peter say Jesus is?
2. How do people answer this question today? If a friend asked you “Who is Jesus?” – What would you say?
3. What did Jesus say would happen to Him? v. 31
4. How did Jesus respond to Peter’s reprimand? Why do you think Jesus’ response was so strong?

DAY 2

MARK 8:34-9:1 — Jesus Predicts His Death

5. Read verses 34-37. When Jesus addresses the crowd, what do you think He’s telling us? What does it mean to take up your cross?
6. List ways people try to gain the world but lose their souls. Circle the ones you struggle with.

7. What cause and effect does Jesus promise in verse 38?

DAY 3 MARK 9:2-13 — Transfiguration

8. Describe how Jesus looked. vv. 2-3 How do you see Jesus?

9. Who appeared with Jesus? Who spoke to the disciples out of the cloud and what did the voice say?

10. What do you think was so important about this event? What does this teach us about what the kingdom of God may be like?

DAY 4 MARK 9:14-29 — Jesus Heals a Boy

11. While 3 of the disciples had been on the mountain with Jesus, the other disciples had found themselves in the middle of an argument. What happened? vv. 14-18

12. How do you think these disciples felt when they failed? How do you think they felt when Jesus said what He did in verse 19?

13. Read verses 20-27. What does Jesus say in verse 23? How did the father reply in verse 24? What happened because of the father's faith? vv. 25-27

14. How does the father model the faith of true discipleship?

15. Read verses 28-29. Prayer releases God's power. Do you feel like God has called you to do something but you're not seeing any progress? When's the last time you asked God for help in that area?

DAY 5 MARK 8:27-9:29 — Wrap Up

16. What are the areas in your life that you do trust God? What are the areas of unbelief?

17. What do you learn about being Jesus' disciple in this lesson?

TAKE AWAY

Who are the people in your life that need hope, and how will you share it with them?
Write a note to someone who needs HOPE and put Mark 9:23 on it!

BLESSING

Denying ourselves and following in Jesus' footsteps seems impossible. Only when we understand who Jesus is can we fulfill what He's asked of us.

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The disciples heard that being a disciple of Jesus involved suffering, that Jesus Himself would suffer and die but be resurrected. They had seen demonic spirits so malignant that they can be driven out only by prayer.

We too must realize that suffering for the sake of the gospel may come because of the hostility in the world (Ephesians 2:1-2).

Two words in this text hold the key to climbing out of defeat—listen and pray. God spoke on the Mount

of Transfiguration: Listen to Jesus! Listening means focusing our minds on Him, concentrating on what we read, and asking God to speak to us through His Word. Then Jesus replied to a question from his disciples, “This kind can come out only by prayer.” Prayer is our best resource in the spiritual battle we are in (Ephesians 6:12). As we listen to Him and pray to Him we will have power to cope in this world so full of problems and pain.

Notes
