

## Read Mark 8:22-9:1

In verses 22-26, Jesus heals a blind man. The healing doesn't happen all at once, but in stages. Jesus could have healed the man immediately, so why might He have healed him in this way?

So far in Mark's gospel, only the demons and God the Father have understood who Jesus is. Even the disciples haven't been able to see the truth yet, but in verses 27-30, all that changes. When Jesus asks His disciples who they think He is, Peter speaks up and gets it right. But what is Jesus' response? And why do you think He responded that way?

Now that Jesus' disciples have understood who Jesus is, Jesus begins to tell them what His mission is (verse 31). What does He say He needs to do?

How does Peter react (verse 32)? Why do you think He reacts this way? Does this relate to Jesus' command to tell no one about Him? Does it relate to the story of the Blind man who's sight is healed in two stages?

How does Jesus respond to Peter (verse 32)? What do you think are the "concerns of God" and the "human concerns" that Jesus is talking about?

In 8:34-9:1, Jesus describes what is required to be His disciple. How do these verses build on Jesus' mission (from verse 31)?

The disciples were expecting to follow Jesus to victory and reward and prestige. What does Jesus tell them will be the result of following Him?

How can we lose our life by saving it or save our life by being willing to lose it? What does this mean?

How do we follow Christ as His disciples based on these verses? What does it mean for us to die with Him? Jesus is asking His disciples to give up their dreams of being political leaders in an earthly kingdom and to instead be ministers of the gospel. What is He asking you to give up?

How does verse 38 make you feel?