



# who is Jesus? MARK THE GOSPEL OF

## Discussion Questions

### Read Mark 9:30-37

Why did the disciples not understand when Jesus predicted His death and resurrection? What were their expectations of the Messiah? Why were they afraid to ask Jesus about it?

Why were the disciples arguing about who was the greatest? How does this line up with their expectations of the Messiah? How does it differ from Christ's mission to die and rise again?

What does Jesus teach them to help them see that their attitudes are wrong (v 35)? Compare this verse with **Philippians 2:1-11**; how did Jesus exemplify this teaching? How does Jesus' humility help us to be humble?

In **verses 36-37**, Jesus uses a child as an example of someone who was "last of all" in society. Welcoming and serving someone like that is welcoming and serving God Himself. What is something practical that you you can do to be a servant like this?

### Read Mark 9:38-41

In **verse 38**, John tries to change the subject. What does he say?

How does this story show that the disciples are still thinking about being the greatest? Go back and look at **Mark 9:17-18**, what might have been part of their motivation for telling the man to stop?

Is Jesus more impressed with big miracles or small acts of service? What phrase is repeated in **verses 39 and 41** that shows what Jesus is really concerned with?

What does it mean to do something "in Jesus' name"? Can anyone rightfully say that they are doing something in Jesus' name? Who do you have to be to say that?

Are there any areas of service that you think are too small to be important? If another Christian started helping in an area that you had been serving for a long time, but they did it differently, or better than you, how would you feel? What attitude does Jesus want you to have about these things?

## Read Mark 9:42-50

In this section, Jesus uses very strong language and hyperbole to warn us of the dangers of sin and stumbling in your walk with Christ. We need to take these warnings seriously.

What are some ways that you might cause someone else to stumble in their walk with Christ? What are some areas in which you need to be careful so you don't stumble in your walk with Christ? How can you be radical and "cut off" things that might cause you to stumble?

**Read Jude 20-23.** These verses command us to keep ourselves in the faith and to snatch others out of the fire. How do we do these things?

**Jude 24** then says that God is the one who keeps us from stumbling to the end. So which is it? Do we keep ourselves in the faith, or does God keep us in the faith? How do these things work together?

**Mark 9:49** is a difficult verse but it seems to be saying that God requires suffering and sacrifice in our lives so that we can be made holy and acceptable to Him. How does that compare to other teaching you have heard about God's plan for suffering in your life? How does it compare to the message that Jesus suffered for us?

**Mark 9:50** wraps up this section by reminding us that we need to be different from the rest of the world (salty) and not lose that distinction. How does being at peace with one another show the difference that Jesus has made in our lives? What are some ways that you can make sure you are at peace with other Christians? How does this relate to everything that has come before in this passage?