

QUESTIONS THAT MATTER.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 8:31-38

1. **BELONG** – This section isn't filler, but an intentional time to slow down and assess how people are doing in their personal and spiritual lives. Feel free to change the questions, but the point is to truly sit in this moment to allow time and space for encouraging spiritual connection.
 - A. Are there things you've been praying for in your group? Give an update on how God is answering those.
 - B. What are some ways you "deny yourself" for the sake of the gospel? Does this come easy for you or is it a struggle?

2. **DISCOVER** – Read Mark 8:31-38 together in your group and discuss the questions below. Remember, this is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue. Being a Life Group leader doesn't mean you have to be a subject matter expert on the Bible. It simply means that you are the lead learner. This section is all about discovering the Word together.
 - A. How would you summarize the primary theme of this section of Scripture to someone who hasn't read it before?
 - B. What encouragement do you find in the passage? What's challenging or uncomfortable?
 - C. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **God**?
 - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
 - D. What truth(s) does this passage teach us about the character of **mankind**?
 - Can you think of any other passages in Scripture that support this truth?
 - E. Look again at verses 34-36. What does it look like to "take up your cross" and "deny yourself" at work, at home, in activities, or hobbies?

3. **GO** – Take time to apply the text. Once we hear truth, we are called to live it out. If our groups just sit and talk about information, they won't experience transformation. This section is about self-reflection and helping one another be accountable to live out what we're learning.
 - A. What are some ways that you have practiced (or need to practice) denying yourself to follow Jesus more faithfully?
 - B. Who do you know that does this well? What impact has that made on you?
 - C. What are the biggest hinderances to doing this?
 - D. Are there ways that someone could accuse you of "being ashamed" of Jesus in your personal life?

4. **PRAYER** – Petition the Lord together as you close out your group time with outward focused prayer.
 - A. Confess ways that you are not denying yourself and ask for the Spirit's help to sanctify you in these areas.
 - B. Ask the Lord for strength and boldness to have a daily, desperate dependence on him to take up your cross every day.