

## RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (STUDENT)

### MARK CHAPTER 8

#### Discussion Starter

- Have there ever been times in your life when you're working with/serving with someone that you think should understand something because you have told them or explained it to them many times but it's just obvious that they don't get it for whatever reason(s)? What have you done in those times?
  - Have you ever been the person that doesn't get it after it has been explained to you and perhaps even demonstrated for you many times? What have you done in those times?

#### Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

#### Tell the Story

#### Read the Story (Mark 8:1-38)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

#### Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

## □ Mark 8:1-10

- With Mark 6:30-44 (the feeding of the 5,000) in mind, what lessons do you think Jesus' disciples could have and should have learned that they could have and should have brought with them into the feeding of the 4,000?
  - And yet, we don't see the disciples of Jesus do a single one of the aforementioned things. Why?
- How are you and your walk with Jesus similar to that of the disciples that we find in Mark 8:1-10? Consider also the following questions.
  - What hinders you from seeing people and situations in the same ways that God does?
  - What do you consistently miss in your walk with Jesus that He has to continually repeat because you are slow to learn, lack desire to learn, or are just too stubborn to learn?
  - Why do you sometimes believe/live that your resources are all that you have to address a situation, person, problem, etc.
- In this passage, we also see that for Jesus compassion wasn't just a matter of feeling something but also doing something about His feelings and notice that Jesus didn't just do something to make Himself feel better but to care for those in front of Him.
  - What are the differences between feeling compassion and doing something about the compassion that you feel? Is one more important than the other?

## □ Mark 8:22-26

- Why does Jesus take the blind man outside the village?

- Why the spit and why wasn't the man healed the "first time?"

#### □ Mark 8:27-30

- If Jesus didn't operate/function/live based upon what people thought of Him, why did He ask His disciples what others thought of Him in this passage and what does this have to do with you and me as disciples in 2019?

#### □ Mark 8:31-33

- Before we rip Peter to shreds, which we aren't going to do because we are more like him than we realize, it is really important to note the full gravity of what Jesus is telling His disciples here. He's not just letting them know that He's going to die and be resurrected, which would be earth shattering enough for His disciples (their best friend, their teacher, their leader, their Messiah). He in essence is turning their concept of the kingdom of God upside down and inside out. In other words, Jesus is saying, "I know all of what you thought or wanted the kingdom to be but, it's almost none of those things. In fact, it's the exact opposite of what you have been thinking and anticipating." With this in mind, it is hopefully easier to understand the force of Peter's response BUT Jesus' response is even more forceful, rebuking, and in Peter's and our faces. Why?

#### □ Mark 8:34-38

- You would think that after what just happened with Peter and the rest of His disciples, Jesus would have given them a little bit of a breather but no, not only does He not give them a breather, He also calls the crowds to Him and goes into more detail. What do the following things mean?
  - Denying yourself
  - Taking up your cross daily

- Following Jesus

### Personal Reflection & Application

- You're in excellent company if you feel like the Lord needs to constantly remind of you things and especially if you feel like you're slow to understand. In fact, it's probably not just a feeling. Since you're a human being, this at some point will be you so seek to be patient with yourself and others BUT...
  - What can you do to intentionally be more effective in learning and living what Jesus says?
  - What can you do to more intentionally speak only as Jesus speaks and act only as Jesus acts?

### Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 9) if you haven't already done so.

## RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

### MARK CHAPTER 8

#### Discussion Starter

- Have there ever been times in your life when you're working with/serving with someone that you think should understand something because you have told them or explained it to them many times but it's just obvious that they don't get it for whatever reason(s)? What have you done in those times?
  - Have you ever been the person that doesn't get it after it has been explained to you and perhaps even demonstrated for you many times? What have you done in those times?

#### Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

#### Tell the Story

#### Read the Story (Mark 8:1-38)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

#### Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

## □ Mark 8:1-10

- With Mark 6:30-44 (the feeding of the 5,000) in mind, what lessons do you think Jesus' disciples could have and should have learned that they could have and should have brought with them into the feeding of the 4,000?
  - Based upon what the disciples had seen, heard, and experienced in the feeding of the 5,000, it would be reasonable to expect the disciples to have seen the people now before them in the ways that Jesus saw them.
  - It would be reasonable to expect the disciples to be coming to Jesus rather than Jesus coming to them because they have confidence that Jesus can surely feed these individuals too.
  - It would be reasonable to expect that the disciples would understand that Jesus' provisions were more than enough to make up for their lack of resources.
  - And yet, we don't see the disciples of Jesus do a single one of the aforementioned things. Why?
    - This is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.
- How are you and your walk with Jesus similar to that of the disciples that we find in Mark 8:1-10? Consider also the following questions.
  - What hinders you from seeing people and situations in the same ways that God does?
  - What do you consistently miss in your walk with Jesus that He has to continually repeat because you are slow to learn, lack desire to learn, or are just too stubborn to learn?
  - Why do you sometimes believe/live that your resources are all that you have to address a situation, person, problem, etc.

- These are perspective and opinion questions so just listen as the facilitator.
- In this passage, we also see that for Jesus compassion wasn't just a matter of feeling something but also doing something about His feelings and notice that Jesus didn't just do something to make Himself feel better but to care for those in front of Him.
  - What are the differences between feeling compassion and doing something about the compassion that you feel? Is one more important than the other?
    - It is important to both see as Jesus sees and move as Jesus moves. Both are equally important. Feeling compassion as Jesus did and does means that my eyes and heart are opened to seeing and feeling as He does. Doing something about the compassion that I feel means that I don't sit and wait in complacency because the feelings are enough. I take the initiative in following the Holy Spirit's lead and charge.

#### □ Mark 8:11-13

- It's easy to see why Jesus was so exasperated with the Pharisees and the generation as whole, especially on the heels of the feeding of the 5,000 & the 4,000 but what were they missing and how does this apply to you and me as disciples in 2019?
  - The Pharisees and that generation in general wanted Jesus on their terms rather than accepting and embracing Jesus on His terms for who He was. It was about what He could do for them rather than how they could serve Him. The second part of the question is a perspective and opinion question so just listen as the facilitator.

#### □ Mark 8:14-21

- Why does Jesus tell His disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod?
  - It is important to connect these verses with what just happened with the Pharisees in verses 11-13. The Pharisees and Herod both

highly valued earthly kingdoms that were built upon power, prestige, money, and conquering. When Jesus refers to the “leaven,” this was understood by the Jew as something that corrupted and spoiled from a spiritual standpoint. So, Jesus in essence is warning His disciples to not get caught up in expecting Him to be someone He is not and has no intention of being.

- Why is Jesus seemingly frustrated with His disciples again?
  - Of all things to be concerned about after the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000, it is almost laughable that they are concerned about physical bread. They are expressing a lack of trust and confidence in the provisions of Jesus.
    - How can you and I more effectively trust in Jesus and His resources?
      - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ **Mark 8:22-26**

- Why does Jesus take the blind man outside the village?
  - There are at least a couple of reasons for this and maybe more.
    - It was an act of compassion on Jesus’ part to not have the man be overwhelmed with bystanders and onlookers when he was already going to be overwhelmed in awesome ways by the recovery of his sight.
    - Jesus didn’t want any more attention taken away from why He came to earth and it wasn’t just or even primarily to heal people. After His encounter with the Pharisees who were asking for a sign, this probably hit closer to home for Jesus.



- Why the spit and why wasn't the man healed the "first time?"
  - There probably isn't one reason for this that can actually be proven but spit/saliva in that day was looked at as something that soothes and eases pain. So, this was quite possibly another act of compassion on the man. Jesus could have spoken a quick word over this man but not only did Jesus seek to spend time with this man but He also touched him, and He used His own spit (as repulsive as this may be to us) to heal him. This is a story that has Jesus' great and deep compassion on full display.
    - As far as the man not being healed the "first time," this doesn't say anything about an inability on Jesus' part or even a lack of faith on the man's part (as some commentators suggest). This is the only miracle of Jesus that was progressive in nature and not instantaneous and again, it can be viewed as an act of compassion on Jesus' part seeking to build the man's faith and confidence in Him.

□ Mark 8:27-30

- If Jesus didn't operate/function/live based upon what people thought of Him, why did He ask His disciples what others thought of Him in this passage and what does this have to do with you and me as disciples in 2019?
  - Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that it wasn't so important what others said or thought about Him because those individuals couldn't answer for them as individuals and the disciples couldn't answer for those individuals or even for each other. Answering who Jesus was/is with what we say and how we live is up to the individual.
    - As disciples today, we need to understand that Jesus asks us the same question. Who do we say that He is? This will be revealed by how we think, what we think, how we act, how we respond, what we believe, etc.

## □ Mark 8:31-33

- Before we rip Peter to shreds, which we aren't going to do because we are more like him than we realize, it is really important to note the full gravity of what Jesus is telling His disciples here. He's not just letting them know that He's going to die and be resurrected, which would be earth shattering enough for His disciples (their best friend, their teacher, their leader, their Messiah). He in essence is turning their concept of the kingdom of God upside down and inside out. In other words, Jesus is saying, "I know all of what you thought or wanted the kingdom to be but, it's almost none of those things. In fact, it's the exact opposite of what you have been thinking and anticipating." With this in mind, it is hopefully easier to understand the force of Peter's response BUT Jesus' response is even more forceful, rebuking, and in Peter's and our faces. Why?

- Jesus did not, does not, and will not consult us about what we think/believe is best for His kingdom and it is His kingdom and not mine and not ours, thus, not my church, not our church but His church. We are privileged and honored to be servants, sons, and daughters in His kingdom but if our hearts, minds, and desires aren't aligned with His, it's not Him that needs to change. It is me and it is us.

## □ Mark 8:34-38

- You would think that after what just happened with Peter and the rest of His disciples, Jesus would have given them a little bit of a breather but no, not only does He not give them a breather, He also calls the crowds to Him and goes into more detail. What do the following things mean?
  - Denying yourself
    - This isn't a self-denial with boundaries that I establish. For example, I'm going to have one donut instead of four. Rather, denying yourself is an ongoing surrendering of all aspects of my life to His boundaries so that I can be more transformed into the image of Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

- Taking up your cross daily
  - The results of the cross were certainly beautiful to Jesus but the cross itself meant death to Jesus. In Galatians 6:14, Paul talks about the cross is the only thing that He boasts in and the thing through which He has been crucified to the world and the world has been crucified to Him. So, taking up our cross daily involves allowing those things that God has killed in me to stay dead.
  
- Following Jesus
  - Following Jesus means that I'm not just embracing Him as Savior but also embracing Him as Lord. What He says, I will do. Where He says to go, I will go. Where He leads, I will follow. Listen to what even Jesus said about His following of the Father when He walked the face of the earth in John 12:49-50.

#### Personal Reflection & Application

- You're in excellent company if you feel like the Lord needs to constantly remind of you things and especially if you feel like you're slow to understand. In fact, it's probably not just a feeling. Since you're a human being, this at some point will be you so seek to be patient with yourself and others BUT...
  - What can you do to intentionally be more effective in learning and living what Jesus says?
  - What can you do to more intentionally speak only as Jesus speaks and act only as Jesus acts?

#### Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?

- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

**□ Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 9) if you haven't already done so.