

# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

February 26, 2012

**Series: Jesus 101**

**“The Most Important Question” Mark 8:1-30**

Ken Dryden

## **Sermon Summary:**

The most important question that anyone can answer is “Who is Jesus?”. This week’s passage stands at the middle of the Gospel and brings us to again ask this all important question. Everything that we see Jesus doing and saying has been to help readers gradually see who he is. The gospel now approaches its first of two climactic spots - one in its middle and one at the end. In both spots, a significant person “gets it”, and confesses openly that Jesus has the “name which is above every name”. Here in 8:29 Peter says “You are the Christ”, then at the end of the gospel, in 15:29 a centurion at the cross says, “Surely this man was the Son of God”. First one of his own disciples understands who he is, and finally the whole world will see who he is. Up until this spot in 8:29 the disciples have struggled to get it. The Pharisees have shown a shocking spiritual blindness but Jesus warns the disciples that they too can be infected by the same disease.

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

- I. What was the best thing that happened in the last week? What did you struggle with? Where have you recognized God at work?
- II. Read Mark 8:1-30
- III. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday?

The format for the rest of the questions this week is somewhat different from past weeks. The focus of these questions is looking at this passage missionally. At first they may seem a little strange but let me encourage you to engage your hearts and minds as you discuss them and look at this passage from a different lens. (Here’s a hint that might help: put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. Jesus has been training you for these past few years. You have come to a crucial point in your training. What do we need to make sure we learn/do in order to carry on Jesus’ work in the world?) You can look at the whole passage or part of it; use some of the questions or all of them. Let me know how this goes.

- IV. How does this text send us and equip us for witnessing to the world?
- V. How does this text share with us good news?

# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

VI. How does this text convert us in personal and corporate life?

VII. How does this text call me to a new way of life?

VIII. How does this text call me to participate in God's work in the world?

**What is God saying to you? What are you going to do about it?**

**Quote:** *"This incident comes in the very middle of Mark's gospel and it does so designedly, for it comes at the peak moment of the gospel. In one way at least this moment was the crisis of Jesus' life. Whatever his disciples might be thinking, He knew for certain that ahead there lay an inescapable cross. Things could not go on much longer. The opposition was gathering itself to strike ... had anyone discovered who He really was? If He had lived and taught and moved amongst men, and if no one had glimpsed God in Him then all His work had gone for nothing... Then there came a breathless silence and He put the question which meant so much, "Who do you say I am?" And suddenly Peter realized what he had always known deep down in his heart. This was the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, the Son of God. And in that answer Jesus knew that He had not failed." ~ William Barclay*

**May God richly bless your time together as a group!**